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New York

President: Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

In the absence of the President, Miss Clarke (Barbados), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 33 and agenda item 41 (*continued*)

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/172)

Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

(a) **Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s**

Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/156 and Corr.1)

(b) **Implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa**

Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/175)

The Acting President: Members will recall that, on 16 September 2002, the General Assembly held a high-level plenary meeting to consider how to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (spoke in French): My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for his exhaustive reports on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/57/172) and on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (A/57/175).

Those two reports deal with many similar issues, so it is appropriate that the General Assembly should consider them jointly; it is certainly true that peace and development are intrinsically linked and that, as it has so rightly been said, development is peace by another name.

With regard specifically to peace, Algeria welcomes the attention that the Secretary-General has continued to focus on the settlement of conflict in Africa, in particular by sending special envoys or representatives to Angola, Burundi, the Horn of Africa, the Sudan, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic; avoiding the duplication of mediation efforts; mobilizing international support for peace; collaborating more effectively with the African Union and subregional organizations; and supporting African initiatives to resolve conflicts in Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

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With regard to development issues, it should be noted from the outset that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly, meeting in substantive session in September to consider the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, reached the unanimous conclusion that the New Agenda had failed.

The report of the independent Panel of Eminent Personalities appointed by the Secretary-General outlines, in an objective way and with great relevance, the reasons and factors, both endogenous and exogenous, that were at the root of that failure, and sets out guidelines, in the form of lessons learned, for future support and assistance by the United Nations and the international community for Africa's development efforts through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) — a framework that will henceforth provide support for all the development strategies and programmes of African countries, as well as for external cooperation and assistance initiatives aimed at Africa.

The independent evaluation of the UN-NADAF — the high quality of which has been universally acknowledged — rightly identified as a first lesson the incompatibility of conflict and development. Peace and security are certainly a prerequisite for development. Even though progress has been made in the past 10 years thanks to the joint efforts of African countries themselves and the United Nations, many conflicts continue to exist and to devastate a number of countries in several regions of a continent that is also prey to disease and poverty.

NEPAD, which was recently endorsed by the General Assembly, following the substantive session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the implementation of the UN-NADAF, as being the political framework for Africa's development, recognizes conflict resolution and the promotion of peace and security as a sine qua non for any effort at development or progress.

NEPAD, as created by African leaders, developed naturally from their shared awareness of the need to take Africa's destiny into their own hands, taking into account global requirements and the contemporary realities of the African continent.

The commitment of the African countries with regard to respect for human rights, good governance and democracy is aimed at the promotion of an environment of stability and peace that, in turn, is an essential basis for the achievement of sustainable development in Africa. Africans themselves will be responsible for the success of that collective African programme, but it will also depend on the genuine, effective contribution of the United Nations system and the international community as a whole.

The recent creation within the Security Council of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, followed by the establishment last July, within the Economic and Social Council, of an ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict, demonstrate the concern of the United Nations about to the instability that is hindering development efforts in Africa. This is a strong expression of its commitment to working in an integrated manner, not only to prevent and resolve conflict, but to help African countries to undertake, in a coordinated and effective manner, the reconstruction of their economies.

That is an encouraging approach that deserves to be supported and consolidated. While my delegation acknowledges the scope and the importance of this, we believe that ongoing collaboration between those two United Nations mechanisms and the Peace and Security Council recently established by the African Union will be essential. In his report on the independent evaluation of the UN-NADAF, the Secretary-General rightly highlights the fact that enhanced coordination and collaboration can produce results that exceed the sum total of individual contributions and can thus magnify the overall impact of the United Nations system.

The reasons given in the evaluation report to explain the inadequate progress made by UN-NADAF include many major factors that hindered the implementation of the New Agenda. These include, in particular, the commitments made by the international community with regard to official development assistance, terms of trade and debt relief.

As Africa's financial resources are generally limited, the active support of the international community is essential if we want to prevent NEPAD from suffering the same fate as UN-NADAF. The follow-up within the United Nations, and at the African

level through the Peer Review Mechanism, of the international community's contribution will allow for the continual assessment of progress, as well as of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of NEPAD.

The review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for Africa's Development will inform us in a responsible way about the approach to use in assisting Africa's economic and social recovery and in ensuring a sustainable development that will be in the interest not only of Africans but of the world as a whole.

We hope that through support provided to NEPAD by the international community and the United Nations system, as well as the Group of Eight, Africa will be able rapidly to close the divide that separates it from other continents and help it to become actively integrated into the world's economy.

Mr. Tayeb (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to express our deep thanks and gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/57/172 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. As a matter of fact, and in view of the great importance that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia attaches to the realization of peace and stability in Africa, my delegation wishes to commend the vital role played and the tireless efforts deployed by the United Nations and its Secretary-General to assist this great continent in putting an end to wars and conflicts and to work towards the realization of sustainable development and prosperity in our sisterly African countries.

We fully agree with the contents of the report submitted to the Security Council by the Secretary-General on the linkage between peace and sustainable development. Experience, especially in the African continent, has shown that development cannot be realized without an environment of peace and security.

Despite the fact that some African countries have reached a substantial level of economic development, setbacks have been experienced due to conflicts, strife and civil wars. Thus we support the efforts of the United Nations to address the root causes of conflict so that they can be dealt with radically and further conflicts prevented, which will preserve the continent from tragedy and suffering, eliminate tensions and instability and allow for the realization of sustainable development in the continent.

To this effect, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes the return of peace and stability to several regions in Africa. It is gratified that the borders between Ethiopia and Eritrea have been demarcated, and that a peace treaty has been concluded between the Government and the rebels in Angola, paving the way for an end to the longest civil war that Africa has ever witnessed.

At the same time, we are concerned at the continuation of strife and conflict that could threaten peace and security and destroy all prospects for development. We feel gravely concerned at, and regret that, the conflict in southern Sudan still rages because of external interference. We are concerned also at the situation in Somalia. As is well known, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made great efforts to put an end to the conflict in Somalia, and hosted the Mecca conference for national reconciliation in Somalia. My country also participated in the peacekeeping operation in Somalia under the auspices of the United Nations. We supported the Conference on National Reconciliation held in Arta, Djibouti, as a very important step towards the restoration of peace and security to that country, which has been ravaged by war for more than a decade now.

We are optimistic that the efforts that are being deployed to address the causes of conflict and to achieve durable peace will enable the realization of sustainable development, which is exactly what the peoples of Africa need to consolidate peace and to intensify their efforts to establish an economic infrastructure that enshrines development as a permanent objective of African countries, with a view to raising the standard of living of their peoples.

Aware of the importance of the international community's support and assistance for developing countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the period 1975-2000, provided assistance to developing countries totalling 4 per cent of the average gross national product of the Kingdom. That assistance included concessional development loans provided by the Saudi Development Fund, which benefited 73 developing countries on various continents through bilateral and multilateral efforts.

My country responded to the call of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, held in Dakar, Senegal, in 1992, to alleviate the debt burden of developing

countries by cancelling official debts totalling $6 billion. In addition, in view of the water shortages faced by the countries of the African Sahel, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia allocated $180 million to implement a special programme to provide water and urgent food aid to rural areas in the Sahel countries.

In conclusion, I should like to assure the Assembly that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue its policy of supporting efforts to achieve peace and security, and that it will make whatever contribution it can to realizing sustainable development in Africa, so that the people of that great continent can enjoy the peace and prosperity that they so richly deserve.

Mr. Zhang Yishan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Over the past year, the international community, in particular the United Nations and relevant international and regional organizations, have done commendable work in helping African countries in their efforts to achieve peace and development, and some progress has been registered in this regard.

The African countries themselves have also recommitted themselves to this cause and have made serious efforts to enhance their own capabilities in the area of conflict prevention and of the maintenance of peace, actively implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development. With the founding of the African Union, African countries took yet another important step towards enhancing collective self-reliance and internal cooperation. Those actions by the African countries have served to strengthen the confidence of the international community in the revitalization of Africa.

However, it should also pointed out that there has been no fundamental change in the difficult situation confronting the African continent. In many parts of Africa, poverty inevitably leads to conflict, and conflict in turn aggravates poverty. Considerable work remains to be done in the area of the eradication of poverty and backwardness and in curbing the spread of AIDS and other contagious diseases.

There is still a long way to go towards peace and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. Peace and development on the African continent are an important part of peace and development worldwide. There can be no significant or lasting prosperity and stability in the world without prosperity and stability in Africa. The international community should therefore give the serious challenges facing Africa the kind of attention they deserve.

In our view, priority should currently be given to the following three areas. First, the United Nations held the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development this year, producing the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation, respectively. The two conferences and their outcomes hold special significance for Africa in terms of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The high-level meeting in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), held by the General Assembly at this session, also reaffirmed the international community's vigorous support for the efforts of African countries in pursuit of unity, cooperation and the establishment of Africa's development strategies. For the time being, it is important to take advantage of this positive momentum to implement in earnest the existing programmes of action so as to translate commitments into concrete action.

Secondly, it is necessary to establish a global partnership in support of African development and to enhance coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system and between it and other agencies. The solution to African problems requires the combined efforts and cooperation of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the Secretariat. It also requires the involvement of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions. It is important for the various bodies and agencies to undertake a comprehensive set of measures to engage in full and enhanced cooperation and coordination. It is likewise important to increase the input of resources, while respecting the ownership and leadership of African countries in their own development efforts. At the same time, the United Nations focus areas for African issues should be harmonized with the goals and priorities established by NEPAD.

Thirdly, while African countries continue to pursue their efforts in conflict prevention and poverty and disease reduction, the international community and the developed countries in particular should effectively honour their commitments of assistance and help African countries to enhance their capacity-building. It is our hope that the developed countries will, in view

of their own long-term interests, demonstrate the necessary political resolve to translate their pledges of assistance to Africa into concrete action. They are called on to turn their support for NEPAD into a new opportunity to open their markets to African countries, provide transfers of technologies, increase official development assistance and reduce or cancel African debt.

It is an important keystone of China's foreign policy to strengthen unity and cooperation with African countries. Ever since the China-Africa Cooperation Forum of October 2000, the achievement of peace, stability and development in Africa has been an objective of Chinese diplomacy, along with an increase in China's foreign trade and cooperation with African countries. China has taken active steps to honour its commitment to provide 10 billion yuan renminbi in debt relief to Africa within two years. To date, China has signed debt-relief agreements with 31 African countries, essentially achieving its stated goal.

Within the framework of South-South cooperation, China will further intensify its cooperation with Africa and provide genuine assistance to the best of its abilities so as to make its own contribution to peace and development in Africa.

Mr. Aboul Gheit (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to express our thanks and gratitude to the Secretary-General for his progress report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as his report on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). I have the honour to speak on these two issues on behalf of the African Group of States.

Our meeting today is of special importance, as it coincides with the General Assembly's adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the new framework through which the international community and the United Nations will mobilize all their efforts to help African States' achieve a better future for their coming generations. This is indeed a source of pride for Africa, since NEPAD is a home-grown initiative, elaborated by the Africans themselves and based on African realities and a comprehensive understanding of the problems and issues of the continent, as well as the hopes and aspirations of African peoples and their political leadership to a better future for their future generations.

The African States wish to express their appreciation to all Member States for the priority they have assigned to Africa. Our appreciation reflects the welcoming new spirit and growing conviction of the need for cooperation and solidarity with the international community in order to combine all such efforts, including those of the United Nations system and other international organizations, to assist in the full implementation of NEPAD, taking into consideration the lessons of the past, especially the results of the General Assembly's appraisal of the implementation of UN-NADAF. African countries welcome this positive trend, which they feel to be a true reflection of the international community's conviction that the eradication of poverty and the realization of sustainable development for all its members is a collective responsibility to be assumed by the countries of the North and the South through the establishment of a genuine partnership based on international solidarity and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as through the determined implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and of the outcomes of other international conferences and summits.

NEPAD, which establishes concepts and implementation programmes on the basis of partnership among African countries themselves, offers a new vision of genuine cooperation with its partners in development, the developed countries, the United Nations and all its organs, and other international organizations and institutions. This partnership should translate the objectives of NEPAD into concrete realities in the context of joint cooperation and mutual interests.

In this context, Africa proceeds from a collective view that does not distinguish between States. Instead it is working on an African unity that understands its common past and shares the present in all its dimensions, while looking to the future with ambition and aspirations. Consequently, it neither accepts selectivity nor conditionality and works with a common purpose and interest. It places no barriers between the benefiting African countries. African countries are equal with a common purpose, and their interests are mutual.

One of Africa's development objectives as mentioned in the Millennium Declaration, is to reduce the percentage of those who live on less than a dollar a day by 50 per cent by 2015. This goal will require that the continent achieve economic growth rates that exceed 7 per cent per year, which means that the financial gap estimated at $60 billion should be bridged. The international community is, therefore, required to arrive at a radical solution to Africa's external debts. It should open international markets to African exports and deal with the price fluctuations of primary commodities as well as assist these countries in increasing their production while diversifying their exports.

In addition, official development assistance (ODA) should be increased to reach the levels that were agreed on internationally, while transferring technology and providing the necessary technical assistance to African countries. In this respect, Africa is of the view that the resolutions of the Conferences of Doha and Monterrey, as well as the Johannesburg Summit, represent a serious start that should be emphasized, pursued and implemented as soon as possible.

African States have declared full ownership of the contents of the initiative represented by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and their commitment to fully implement all its political, economic, social and environmental components. To this end, they have established the institutional mechanisms necessary for this purpose. African countries believe that our meeting has led to the expansion of the circle of partners of Africa and mobilized the political and economic support needed to implement the initiative. African countries have also agreed on the definition of the role of the United Nations system, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society institutions, and on how these different actors can help them in the coming period. The Nations of Africa look forward to a new era of serious work at all levels that takes into consideration the experiences of the past and translates concretely their collective commitment to succeed in improving life on the continent.

It is incumbent on us to re-emphasize that the settlement of armed conflicts in Africa and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development on the continent are all collective responsibilities that the international community should shoulder, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter that regulates the work of this international Organization. This should be done out of a deep conviction that Africa represents an important and integral part of the current international order.

We must also agree on what responsibilities we as Africans should shoulder and on what our partners in the international community should shoulder. This is the mandate that we should exercise within the General Assembly, the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations.

We have no doubt that Africa, as represented by the African Union and its subregional organizations, has shown the political will to settle its problems and disputes in a peaceful manner. We have been able to establish areas of peace, as has been witnessed during the past few years and as is reflected in the important resolutions adopted at the last African Summit held in Durban, South Africa. We also believe that there is real conviction regarding the role that the Security Council has started to play in the settlement of disputes on the continent; the attention that the General Assembly continues to direct towards the continent; the wide international support that NEPAD has received; and the emergence of the Organization of African Unity to become the African Union.

In this respect, allow me to deal with some specific points that we believe reflect the African vision on all the issues that the Secretary-General has dealt with regarding the United Nations response to disputes on the continent. First, Africa in our view represents one single entity in which all the member States of the continental organization, the African Union, enjoy the same rights and responsibilities, and its problems and preoccupations receive the same attention and political will. Thus it is incumbent on the international community to pay equal attention to all the disputes that are raging on the continent, dealing with them with the same sense of responsibility and political will.

When the international community, as represented by the Security Council, takes on the role of settling disputes, whether involving Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone or Angola, it must not ignore the other hotbeds of tension and conflicts on the continent simply because they have not received international attention, such as Somalia, Burundi and Liberia. This trend should be

corrected, a view which is in total harmony with the emphasis placed by the Security Council itself and by the Millennium Declaration, adopted in September 2000.

Secondly, the Nations of Africa welcome the increasing attention that the United Nations is paying to the settlement of complicated and complex conflicts. Settling a conflict in one specific State is not as effective, as when settling a conflict from a regional perspective. Consequently, we appreciate the role that this international Organization is playing in the West African region, by opening a regional office in Dakar, headed by a high-level representative of the Secretary-General to the Manu River Union. We also welcome the plans being made to consider similar problems that are raging in the Great Lakes region in terms of their security, ethnic, military, political, economic and humanitarian dimensions. We look forward to the convening, when conditions are right, of an international conference on peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes regions, currently in preparation under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union.

Peacekeeping operations are an important instrument at the disposal of the Security Council to settle armed conflicts in Africa and for the establishment of peace in conflict areas on the continent. Surveying the great success achieved in Sierra Leone, thanks to the role played by the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone and the political will demonstrated by the Council, we in Africa can conclude that the United Nations is indeed able to take courageous decisions to contain the fires raging on the continent and to ensure the various peace agreements to be implemented.

However, we must underscore once again that the Security Council's response to those conflicts must be commensurate with the magnitude of the challenges faced in Africa. Peacekeeping operations should be given the strong mandate and necessary military capabilities and forces to carry out their missions in a comprehensive and successful manner. Participation in such missions should be a collective responsibility shared by the major Western Powers on an equal footing with African and other developing countries that contribute, and sometimes sacrifice, the greatest number of personnel in United Nations operations on the continent.

Organizations, groups and African States have undertaken constructive initiatives for settling disputes on the continent. The United Nations supports those initiatives in the manner described by the Secretary-General in his report. While we welcome that support and look forward to its continuation, we wish to underscore the fact that the international community must be ready to put its political weight — and its military weight if necessary — behind such initiatives in order to achieve their objectives. We therefore look forward to the outcome of the Somalia reconciliation conference that began two days ago at Eldoret, Kenya, under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development. We hope that the United Nations will make a serious contribution to the implementation of that conference's outcome, as expressed by the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, including by sending a peace-building mission to Somalia when conditions are appropriate. We also hope that the international community will play a similar role in Burundi when a ceasefire can be agreed on with those armed groups still outside the Arusha peace process, until national reconciliation in the country is completed.

Several other initiatives were adopted by African heads of State and Government in order to lay the foundation for peace and stability on the continent and to combat the root causes of such disputes and conflicts. Initiatives needing the support of the international community include the resolution adopted by the Durban Summit on the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the implementation of its protocol, as well as the declaration on security, stability, cooperation and development which was adopted two years ago at the Lomé Summit. The international community has also called for continuing its contribution in the consolidation of democracy and good governance in Africa — in accordance with the values and principles that the continent itself decided upon. Africa has occasionally preceded other communities in those values, especially through the decision not to recognize Governments that seize power by unconstitutional means. In that respect, we should mention that in Durban, African leaders adopted an important declaration on the principles governing democratic elections in Africa. The principles it contains, inter alia, determine the electoral responsibilities of African States, the rights and obligations of Governments and citizens and the ways and means by which the African

Union can supervise the principles that the African heads of State made a commitment to respect. We call on the international community to cooperate with us in implementing those principles.

Mr. Andjaba (Namibia): My delegation associates itself with the statement just made by the Ambassador of Egypt on behalf of the African Group. We welcome the joint debate on the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/57/172) and on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (A/57/156 and Corr.1). We commend the Secretary-General for his tireless efforts in mobilizing the international community to support Africa.

It has been long established that peace and development are inextricably linked. It therefore follows that for Africa to lay the foundation for sustained economic growth and sustainable development, conflicts should be prevented and resolved. Therein lies the uniqueness of the report on causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The report went beyond identifying the problems to recommend the comprehensive action to be taken by Africans themselves and by the international community in order to create the conditions necessary for sustainable development in Africa.

Conflict prevention is indispensable to durable peace. The report stresses the need to avoid a multiplicity of actions in mediation efforts and recommends channelling all assistance and efforts through a central mediator, be it the United Nations or a regional organization. My delegation concurs with this view, for when the mediation process is coherent and strengthened, the impact is much greater. In this regard, regional and subregional mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution should be supported.

Let me point out, Madam President, that it requires time and resources to put peace efforts into effect. Experience has shown that, in most cases, resources put into setting up peace mechanisms far surpass the successes achieved. This has a retrogressive effect and needs to be addressed.

In the same vein, post-conflict peace-building serves as the bridge between development and the recurrence of conflict. We, therefore, welcome the recommendations of the Secretary-General on peace-friendly structural adjustment programmes.

In this context, efforts at integrating a gender perspective in conflict resolution and humanitarian programmes, among others, need to be intensified. To this end, there should be increased cooperation between relevant United Nations bodies and the African Union's Women's Committee on Peace and Development. This includes donor response to the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa. We commend the efforts of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other United Nations agencies in peace-building activities, thus empowering women to play a constructive role in post-conflict peace-building activities.

In the area of promoting good governance, while a lot remains to be done, African countries have developed clear standards of accountability and participatory governance at the national and subregional levels. In promoting transparency and accountability in public administration, the Charter for the Public Service in Africa, which was adopted in Namibia in February 2001, is a positive development, and its implementation will enhance governance in the public sector.

The proliferation of small arms poses a threat to the security of the continent and has the potential to disrupt peace-building efforts. In this context, Namibia hosted in July a subregional workshop on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the system for standardized reporting on military expenditures, including transparency in military matters. It is our hope that this workshop, organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, will enhance greater participation concerning these two issues and serve as a confidence-building measure in the region. At this juncture, let me point out that the proliferation of arms is always preceded by the production of arms. Hence, addressing this problem should be a mutual and collective concern.

No other continent has had so many peacekeeping operations as Africa, and the lessons learned are mixed. As indicated in the report, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) is the largest of the four

peacekeeping missions currently deployed in Africa. We applaud the regional efforts of the Economic Community of West African States and welcome the stabilizing role UNAMSIL is playing in that country. It should be pointed out that when a peacekeeping mission is deployed with a clear mandate, and when its size is commensurate with the magnitude of the task it is expected to carry out, it can make a difference. In this context, and while the respective situations might not be identical, the Security Council must draw lessons from UNAMSIL and approve the new concept of operation of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), as recommended by the Secretary-General in his latest report.

We cannot speak of efforts to enhance Africa's development without addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which is ravaging the continent. In addition to the measures enumerated in the report, countries that are severely affected need help in the form of additional resources and capacity-building in order for them to address this pandemic. We call on the international community to support the Global Health Fund and to complement the efforts of African countries in this regard.

In this interdependent world, challenges defy boundaries. While Africa is home to the largest number of least developed countries, it receives the least of the world's foreign direct investment. Harsh and recurring environmental conditions affect food security in many African countries. Therefore, we support the recommendation of the Secretary-General in urging donor countries to take into account a multitude of factors when providing international aid to Africa.

We concur with the observation that infrastructure, including air transport, is crucial for Africa to attract foreign direct investment. As we mark the end of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, let me state that no country has achieved and sustained rapid economic growth while depending on the export of raw materials. Africa's industrialization will add value to our primary commodities, create employment and decrease over-dependence on imports. Only then can we tap into the international market, thus creating economic growth and consolidating our efforts to eradicate poverty. Namibia commends the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for playing its proportionate part in complementing the efforts of African countries. We call for increased resources to UNIDO to enable it to effectively carry out its development mandate.

We welcome the steps taken to provide better market access to African products, and now we must work to remove existing obstacles to African agricultural products. In this context, we take interest in the post-Doha agenda and believe that increased technical assistance from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization will boost African countries' participating capacity.

We have always maintained that the multiplicity of initiatives on Africa's development should be streamlined and harmonized. In this respect, we welcome the coordinated United Nations system support to the African Union's initiative, the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

In our view, the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on causes of conflict remain valid and relevant in the transformation of the African Union. The implementation of these recommendations, my delegation believes, will also add high value to the achievement of sustainable development in Africa.

Mr. Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Sustainable development in Africa is an issue that concerns us all. That is why we held a special high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, an occasion in which the international community expressed its full support for a new partnership for the development of Africa.

Nevertheless, we were surprised and sorry to see that the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa was unable to conclude its work on the scheduled date, because it could not find the exact wording to convey in a resolution the much vaunted support of developed countries for Africa's development.

Meanwhile, 340 million people in Africa — half of its population — live on less than $1 a day. Life expectancy is 54 years. The under-5 infant mortality rate is 140 per 1,000 live births. In sub-Saharan Africa, 3.6 million children are born with a low birth weight;

100 million children do not attend school; 28 million people, including 3 million children, are affected by HIV/AIDS and have no access to the medicines or treatments necessary to fight the disease, prevent other diseases and relieve pain. Age-old diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and others just as lethal have not been eradicated. Only 48 per cent of the population has access to drinking water.

While a knowledge-based world economy is being developed, 41 per cent of Africans over the age of 15 are illiterate. Millions of people have no access to electricity; far fewer have access to a telephone line. There are only 18 main telephone lines per 1,000 inhabitants in Africa, while in developed countries, with only 15 per cent of the world's population, there are 567 lines per 1,000 inhabitants.

How is it that Africa, with 18.5 per cent of the world's population and the world's largest natural resource reserves, has only 1 per cent participation in the world gross national product and 2 per cent of world trade, while the world's three richest individuals own assets equal to the combined gross national product of the 48 poorest countries? Neo-liberal globalization exacerbates that imbalance and hinders African countries' integration into the world economy and participation in global decision-making. Obviously, the current unjust and unsustainable international economic order is still allocating to Africa a completely marginalized role as a source of primary wealth with no economic development. Today, Africa exports more capital than it receives in aid and financing. It is a net exporter of capital.

Furthermore, today there is more armed conflict in Africa than in any other continent; 20 per cent of Africans live in countries affected by conflict, causing many deaths and the displacement of millions of people, both refugees and internally displaced persons. No review of the causes of conflict in Africa can ignore, as some claim it should, the centuries of colonial exploitation, when African economies were plundered and distorted, turning them into suppliers of natural resources, raw materials and cheap labour in a continent that, given its resources and potential, could today be one of the most developed in the world.

Africa does not need lessons, recipes or adjustment programmes to resolve its conflicts. Rather, it needs financial resources, official development assistance, debt cancellation and the support of the United Nations and the international community. Think of what could be achieved if just a tiny portion of the $849 billion spent every year on military expenditures were placed in a United Nations fund to foster the sustainable development of the Africa countries. Think of what could be done if a development tax of just 0.1 per cent were imposed on international financial transactions. That would generate resources of nearly $400 billion per year, which, if it were well managed by the United Nations and its agencies, could changed the current situation.

Despite what is said in debates and expressed in many resolutions, emphasis continues to be placed on reacting to conflict in Africa, rather than on prevention. There are many initiatives and all kinds of proposals on Africa in the United Nations, but there is still a need for an integrated approach to the resolution of issues related to peace, security and development of the continent. Nor is there a United Nations mechanism for regular efficient evaluation of the implementation of agreements.

Africa can wait no longer. International cooperation is indispensable. The African peoples need the support of the international community, as the few resources they have must be used to pay off foreign debt. Only Africa spends four times as much on foreign debt service payments than on education and health combined. African countries will be able to achieve sustainable development only if they are accorded special and differential treatment, guaranteed market access, the drop in prices of basic goods ends, foreign debt is cancelled, access to technology is ensured, official development assistance is increased and financial resources are provided without interference or conditionality.

Cuba, as a third-world country, not only attaches great importance to South-South cooperation, it also feels a sincere commitment and clearly defined solidarity with its African brothers. Despite the economic blockade imposed on my country for more than four decades, 200,000 Cubans have been working in dozens of African countries in sectors such as health, agriculture, education and sports. Nearly 30,000 African young people have graduated in Cuba. More than 3,000 are studying in our country today on scholarship, more than 1,000 of whom are studying medicine. Almost 1,000 Cuban doctors are working today free of charge in rural areas of 12 African countries. We are working to set up medical schools

with Cuban teachers to provide free education to ensure that health personnel are given on-the-spot training.

I reiterate once again my country's offer to help the fraternal African peoples in the fight against the AIDS pandemic by sending 4,000 doctors and health-care workers to set up the infrastructure necessary for people to get the medicine, guidance and follow-up care they need. They would also help in developing human resources. We would send teachers to set up medical schools and provide qualified staff to cooperate in campaigns against AIDS and other diseases. We would also provide free retroviral therapy to 30,000 patients annually.

Cuba is a poor country. Let us leave words aside. Let selfishness cease. Let us act with urgency.

Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): We meet today to address two major issues confronting Africa: conflict and development. The Secretary-General's report on the causes of conflict in Africa (A/52/871) is now in its fifth year. The entirety of the United Nations membership has since lent unequivocal support to its recommendations. Thanks to the matrix designed by the Secretariat, we can now assess and monitor progress in their implementation. Member States have also been apprised of the constraints faced in realizing the report's objectives. Secretary-General Kofi Annan deserves our appreciation for mobilizing a United Nations system-wide response to translate that wide range of recommendations into actions.

Africa today presents a considerably different perspective from even the immediate past. Many of the armed conflicts have been resolved. Several United Nations missions are in transition from peacekeeping to post-conflict peace-building. The international community has shown greater understanding of the stakes involved in supporting peace and development in that continent. The African leadership has amply demonstrated its commitment and its vision. With the matrix at hand, we now know where the progress has been stalled and what the impediments are. We also know what is required to address those constraints. The way ahead from here lies in redoubled effort on the part of all stakeholders to secure the achievement of our goals.

The Security Council has devoted considerable attention to Africa's conflicts as well as to their causes and their consequences. As a member of the Security Council in 2000 and 2001, Bangladesh supported greater United Nations involvement in Africa. For our part, we have amply underscored our commitment by contributing troops and other personnel to almost all United Nations peacekeeping missions in Africa. As the Bangladesh Foreign Minister said, "We have sent our peacekeepers even to the most dangerous theatres. We have done this in keeping with our Charter commitment and in the spirit of solidarity with Africa."

The linkage between the root causes of conflict and underdevelopment is nowhere more pronounced than on the African continent. We have espoused the philosophy of prevention, we have contributed to the debate in the Security Council, and we have taken the lead in defining preventive actions. Security Council resolution 1366 (2001), which Bangladesh steered, has already provided the Council with the legislative mandate for prevention in a number of areas. We hope that the General Assembly will soon grant its approval to a broader mandate for United Nations system-wide action for the prevention of armed conflict. We have also been a strong supporter of the Dutch proposition that in peace operations, there must be no exit without strategy, because therein lies the crucial link between durable peace and sustainable development. In that context, we share the views expressed by Ambassador Aboul Gheit on behalf of the African Group a short while ago.

A critical element in development is the ownership of strategies. Bangladesh is enthusiastic about the fact that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is an initiative led, owned and managed by the African Union. That was echoed by many during the final review of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) in two recent meetings of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on that subject. In the run-up to the UN-NADAF review meetings, on 16 September, the Assembly unanimously adopted a Declaration on NEPAD (resolution 57/2). Once again, we stressed that NEPAD represents a compact among African nations and the international community in addressing the aspirations of the continent.

Perhaps Africa has had enough of analysis of its problems: the Millennium Declaration and the Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg Summits, to name some of them. Now that our brethren in Africa have challenged us in the international community to match their commitments with our contribution, the central

question remains: where do we go beyond this review and today's debate?

Obviously, a first step is to factor in the lessons we have learned in realizing the goals and implementing the programmes of UN-NADAF over the past decade. We share the Secretary-General's assessment that there are a number of important lessons to be learned from the experience of UN-NADAF: that development cooperation with Africa requires a new orientation, that the international community should honour its commitments, that strengthened advocacy remains essential for Africa's development, and that peace and security are absolute preconditions for Africa's sustainable development.

That also leads us to the premise of the need for comprehensive and strong support for partnership from the international community. That must come in the form of eliminating trade barriers to Africa's exports. It must come through fulfilment of our partners' commitment to reversing the trend of declining aid to Africa and to building its capacity, as most recently pledged in Monterrey. It must come by way of the faster, deeper and broader debt relief for 22 African countries required under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative. And it should come through redesigning support for African capacity-building so that technical assistance resources are directed more towards human development and capacity-building.

Again, I would stress that NEPAD provides a critical opportunity to our development partners to demonstrate that they are serious about Africa. We saw that reflected in the Group of Eight Africa Action Plan, adopted last summer. In that context, we continue to believe that all development issues should be addressed with equal weight. From our own experience in a comparable milieu, we know that a selective approach to development will not pay. An equally important element in ensuring NEPAD's success at the national, regional and global levels remains the financing of all its operational modalities.

There are two more aspects, I believe, that deserve to be stressed in ensuring the comprehensive consideration of Africa's development. In addressing conflict prevention, we recognized that many conflicts are rooted in endemic poverty and underdevelopment, in weak or non-existent institutions, in the absence of good governance and in the gross and systematic violation of human rights. That recognition inevitably leads us to what was underscored at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held last year. The Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries outline a menu of actions to be implemented by the international community to address the socio-economic challenges confronting the 49 most impoverished countries. Thirty-four of those are in Africa. The fulfilment of the commitments of the Programme of Action will go a long way towards addressing Africa's problems.

A second aspect relates to utilizing the potential of South-South cooperation for Africa. In the light of its own development experience, Bangladesh clearly sees the strength and the scope of such a cooperative framework. It entails assisting countries in a similar situation to share experiences in a number of development sectors.

It is in that context that Bangladesh can and will strive to contribute meaningfully to Africa's rebuilding. Over the years, Bangladesh has experimented with a number of innovative approaches to development — such as microcredit and non-formal education — to address extreme poverty, to empower women and to create social safety nets for the needy. By involving non-governmental organizations and all civil society actors, we have been able to strengthen our institutions and to deliver broad-based social sector programmes. We remain ready to share our experiences with Africa. Let me reiterate that some of our experiences in these spheres are already being shared by a number of African countries in terms of activities at the national level.

We are gratified to see that these concerns and thoughts have been incorporated into the draft resolution on which the Assembly will take action at the end of its consideration of this item. We fully endorse them. We would join our African brethren in monitoring progress achieved in implementing them and the commitments to Africa that the international community has made in other forums. We have confidence in Africa's potential. We believe in the veracity of the Roman writer Pliny the Elder's classical dictum: "There is always something new out of Africa".

Mr. Ayari (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I should like to express our satisfaction at the holding of this debate, which is of the utmost

importance for Africa and which shows the international community's increased interest in the development and stability of that continent, which for decades has endured the horrors of armed conflict, poverty and marginalization.

In addition, I should like to thank the Secretary-General for the report (A/57/172) related to the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report (A/52/871) on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. Indeed, four years later, the analyses and the recommendations contained in that report retain all their pertinence. The Secretary-General rightly emphasizes the critical link between peace and development and proposes the adoption of a comprehensive and integrated approach to preventing conflicts, eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development in Africa.

In that respect, I would like to recall that, during its presidency of the Security Council in February 2001, Tunisia proposed a debate on the consolidation of peace because we were convinced of the absolute need for the international community to deal with the socio-economic causes of instability and conflict so that peace and security, once established as a result of international efforts, would be truly lasting.

The report before us emphasizes that progress has been made in a wide range of areas through the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, and we welcome that fact.

We are particularly pleased that the main crises on the African continent are in the process of being resolved, even if the situation remains disturbing and peace is still fragile in certain regions. Such progress is mainly due to the efforts of African countries themselves, as well as of the commitment of the international community.

It should be acknowledged that for many years the United Nations has devoted significant resources to peacekeeping operations in Africa. Four such operations are currently under way, the most important of which are the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

Even though we welcome the support provided by the United Nations to African initiatives aimed at resolving conflict, we believe that is it particularly important to further strengthen coordination and consultation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, the Southern African Development Community and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, which, because of their geographic proximity, are sometimes better equipped to determine the most suitable moment for the Council's preventive action, to identify the real needs of Africa and to indicate the most appropriate responses.

In this regard, my delegation welcomes the role played by UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone, which is consequently once again moving towards peace and stability. My delegation also welcomes the close cooperation between ECOWAS and UNAMSIL aimed at bringing peace and stability back to the Mano River Union region.

With regard to the situation in the Great Lakes region, we are particularly pleased by the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in implementation of the Lusaka Agreement. My delegation is concerned about the security gap left by that withdrawal and therefore calls on MONUC to deploy, as quickly as possible, troops in the areas that have been evacuated so as to fill that gap, in accordance with phase III of MONUC's deployment.

I would like to focus on certain aspects of the report of the Secretary-General that we believe deserve particular attention. My delegation welcomes first of all the interest shown by the United Nations system in preventive action. The well-known old adage, "Prevention is better than cure", is a wise one. Such a policy could save thousands of lives and protect precious resources for development.

In this connection, we welcome the creation within the Council of a Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. That Working Group has already drawn up a significant programme of work in which the Economic and Social Council has already taken part, thus illustrating how joint action by two of the principal organs of the United Nations is beneficial when addressing peacekeeping and international security in all their dimensions.

Another relevant subject is the proliferation of weapons, including small arms. This scourge is one of

the main obstacles to a return to peace and development in conflict-affected countries, particularly in Africa. The fact that a number of initiatives have emerged in the past few months indicates that there is a true awareness in Africa and in the international community as a whole with regard to that problem.

We call for respect for Security Council embargoes and other sanctions relating to weapons. Indeed, the Council debate of 11 October 2002 emphasized the role that should be played by that body, in coordination with Member States and regional organizations, so as to ensure greater respect for arms embargoes and better control and monitoring of the circulation of small arms. Furthermore, we believe that the preparation of an instrument to help identify and trace illicit weapons could be an effective way of dealing with that destructive trade.

Another important element on which my delegation would like to focus is the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. In this regard, I would like to emphasize the need to strengthen such programmes in the context of peacekeeping operations in countries emerging from conflict. The success of such a process will, of course, require adequate financing, the provision to demobilized former combatants of vocational training and the development of projects to generate income and employment opportunities. We believe that that would be the best way of investing in peace.

My delegation believes that sanctions should be used only as a last resort, when all other peaceful means have been exhausted, so as to prevent further suffering for the civilian population. If sanctions are considered to be necessary, they should be more accurately targeted at certain individuals or specific entities within a State, as was the case with UNITA.

At a time when significant progress is being made in resolving conflicts that have for so long hindered Africa's march toward progress and well-being, it is essential that everything be done to enhance the economic development of African countries, particularly those emerging from conflict. We note, however, that very little progress has been made in a number of areas, such as eradicating poverty, preventing and treating infectious diseases, ensuring food security, developing infrastructure, building institutional capacity for cooperation and regional integration and protecting the environment. Those are endogenous factors that are destabilizing in and of themselves, but the international situation adds to the difficulties. Worsening terms of trade, the crushing burden of debt service, levels of external support that are stagnating or even decreasing, insufficient foreign investment — which is an absolute necessity for Africa's development — and difficulties of access to international markets are ills that are shared by all the countries of Africa.

With the creation of the African Union and the launching of NEPAD — an African initiative that emphasizes peace, stability, good governance, democracy and respect for human rights as prerequisites for development — Africa has begun a new chapter in its history. Africa aspires henceforth to play its proper role on the international stage and to bring about the comprehensive development of the continent. It will be able to depend on its own capacities and potential, both natural and human, but it will also need outside support that will allow it to make significant strides forward and to reduce the gap that separates it from the developed world. That is in the interests of Africa as well as of the international community as a whole.

We have great hopes, therefore, that we will see a increase in solidarity that will help Africa to eradicate the ills from which it suffers. The Monterrey Conference and the Johannesburg Summit, as well as the Action Plan adopted by the Group of Eight at Kananaskis, open up promising prospects that will, through the commitments entered into, allow Africa to achieve the development of which it has been deprived for so long.

Mr. Manalo (Philippines): The United Nations has accorded high priority to the development of Africa — rightly so, in the opinion of my delegation. In this regard, we thank the Secretary-General for his reports on this important subject.

Africa's development is a major challenge for all of us. For many years now, parts of that great continent have been mired in abject poverty, malnutrition and disease, and been afflicted by armed conflicts that are anathema to growth and sustainable development.

The international community, therefore, cannot shut its eyes to the needs of Africa. In an era of rapid globalization, it is essential that parts of the African continent not be marginalized and deprived of the benefits of a globalized economy. Thus, the United

Nations has taken a necessary step for Africa: mobilizing international action for its sustainable growth and development. More than this, however, all the stakeholders' partnerships with Africa are the key to its realization.

Since 1990, the United Nations has been in the forefront of engaging the support and assistance of all the stakeholders for Africa's development. Year after year, the General Assembly has adopted relevant and appropriate resolutions to address the manifold challenges of Africa. This expression of commitment has culminated anew in a resolution reviewing and appraising the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The Philippines joins other delegations in welcoming the resolution under the item on the final review and appraisal of UN-NADAF containing the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. We are confident that this resolution will offer a realistic road map for addressing effectively the challenges facing Africa.

NEPAD, as a Programme of Action of the African Union, embodies the vision and commitments of the African Governments and peoples. We believe that NEPAD will be bolstered by the African Peer Review Mechanism, because it underlines the commitment of African countries to sound political, economic and corporate governance.

But more than this, there is a need for active partnerships between Africa and the various stakeholders, including the international community; the developed countries; the developing countries, through South-South cooperation; as well as the United Nations system.

The Philippines will do its part, but we believe that developed partners must also extend all possible assistance and cooperation to African countries in order to strengthen key institutions such as the civil service, the judiciary, the business sector and civil society.

South-South cooperation can also play a pivotal role and should therefore be vigorously promoted. In this area, the Philippines may be able to share its experiences in human capacity-building, including its positive and progressive record of Government partnership with all stakeholders, including the business sector and civil society.

Efforts leading to regional integration must also be pursued. As the Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Blas F. Ople, stated in the debate on this issue on 16 September last, "Africa and ASEAN should forge stronger ties ... for there is much that we can learn from each other." He added that Africa can study ASEAN's modest success in regional integration, particularly in overcoming the factors that hinder effective regional cooperation and integration.

As I said earlier, globalization must not marginalize millions in Africa. It is imperative that the flow of aid to the continent be stable and predictable, and that it increase. We therefore urge once again all developed partners that have not done so to meet the aid target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product.

There is also a need for greater access of African products to global markets. Moreover, the international community must remain serious about debt relief. We thus support the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

The Philippines has been supporting peace efforts for Africa and will continue to do so. We believe that development and economic growth are dividends of peace. Thus the Philippine Government will continue to support every effort to bring peace and stability to Africa — from efforts to stem the illicit flow of small arms, to efforts aimed at resolving existing conflicts and preventing new ones through conflict-prevention measures and measures such as the reintegration of armed combatants.

Once again, the key to Africa's development is a holistic and comprehensive partnership among its many stakeholders. There is no doubt that, with a renewed sense of partnership and solidarity with Africa, that continent will move progressively on the road towards sustainable growth and development.

Mr. Shinde (India): We thank the Secretary-General for the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. We also thank him for the reports which have been prepared for the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the

United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

We believe that it is imperative for any discussion on the causes of conflict and on the promotion of durable peace and stability to highlight the beneficial role that democracy can play in this regard. Democracy is, first and foremost, a moral imperative. It also provides the basis for durable peace and stability. We recognize that African leaders have themselves accorded the highest priority to democracy, and we believe that this trend deserves to be encouraged by the international community.

The Secretary-General has, in his report, provided a broad overview of various initiatives taken to respond to situations of conflict, including to curb the proliferation of small arms. While we commend these initiatives, we do feel that more needs to be done, particularly with regard to stemming the illicit trafficking of small arms. Illicit weapons have been the weapons of choice in an overwhelming number of conflicts in the past decade and claim each year hundreds of thousands of lives, the overwhelming number of which are civilian lives. It is important, in our view, for all responsible States to undertake an obligation not to supply such weapons to non-State actors. Manufacturers and exporters should be subject to the strictest controls. There should be strict insistence on authenticated end-user certificates to ensure effective control over the export and transit of such weapons. It is also necessary to have a mechanism to trace and mark small arms, and to ensure that they are not diverted from legal channels into illicit trade.

The Secretary-General, in his report on the independent evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa, has made a number of very specific recommendations. The most important, in our view, is the one recommending the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the development policy framework around which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development. We are confident that the United Nations system will do so.

It is, in our view, very important that the international community, particularly donors, accept NEPAD as the policy framework for Africa's development. The report of the independent evaluation has made amply clear the importance of Africa's being allowed to determine its own policies and priorities. It states very cogently:

> "Democracy is undermined if elected African Governments have policies imposed from outside, leaving their democratic institutions without any real choices". (*A/AC.251/9, p. 7*)

India's own relationship with Africa is built on strong historical and political foundations. Leaders of India's freedom struggle were convinced that the independence of India would not be complete until all of Africa was free from colonial domination. Over the last four decades, it has been our objective to build on this foundation by imparting substantive economic content to this relationship. I am happy to state that we have been exploring ways and means by which we can provide support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the true spirit of South-South cooperation. Our Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched a programme known as Focus Africa. This seeks to build upon the success that we have already achieved in trade between India and sub-Saharan Africa, registering an increase of more than 280 per cent in the last nine years.

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade recently completed a study that identifies bottlenecks and suggests practical measures for raising the level of our commercial exchanges with the African continent. We have decided to increase the availability of credit to national and regional institutions on the continent and have set for ourselves a target of $200 million to be made available in the next year.

A conference on India and NEPAD, held in New Delhi in July this year, brought together representatives of Indian industry and financial institutions and their partners in Africa. The conference addressed, among other issues, the question of improving the utilization of the lines of credit extended by India to many countries in Africa. Following the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development, India also decided to cancel all bilateral debt owed to it by the highly indebted poor countries.

We have noted the importance accorded in NEPAD to promoting the private sector, and the call to the international community to promote entrepreneurial development programmes for training managers of African firms. The conference on India and NEPAD aimed at initiating significant dialogue between the private sectors and financial institutions of India and of

Africa. We have announced our intention of instituting a training programme for private sector executives, to be conducted in India. This programme will, we hope, also contribute to expanding contacts between our respective apex chambers of commerce and industry.

Health is one of the priority sectors identified in NEPAD. We would be happy if Indian industry could contribute, even if in a modest way, to enhancing access to affordable medicines in Africa. A four-day India-Africa health summit was held in Mumbai in September last year. It provided an opportunity for participating health ministers and their delegations to interact with leading Indian pharmaceutical companies and health care service providers. This, we hope, will lead to the formation of joint ventures and further economic cooperation between India and Africa in the health sector.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) constitute another sector in which India and Africa can cooperate in a meaningful manner. The information technology (IT) industry in India has registered a compounded annual growth rate of more than 42 per cent over the last five years. That is more than double the growth rate of the IT industry in most developed countries. We note the objective in NEPAD to develop a pool of ICT-proficient young people and students from which Africa can draw ICT engineers, programmers and software developers. We have made a beginning in this avenue for cooperation and are in the process of establishing a centre of excellence in information and communication technologies with one of our partners in Africa.

India obviously has limited resources available for partnership in capital-intensive areas. It is, however, our belief that our partnership can be meaningful, particularly in the area of human resource development. Knowledge and technology, in our view, flow more easily from one developing country to another because what matters is not the simple acquisition of technology but innovation, and its adaptation and adjustment to local conditions. Yet this need not be restricted to what is termed as appropriate technology. It can also be the application of cutting-edge technology to stubborn problems and impediments to development. The Indian experience embraces both possibilities. We would be happy to share that experience as an expression of our commitment to economic growth and sustainable development in Africa.

Mr. Kazemi Kamyab (Islamic Republic of Iran): It is indeed a great honour for me to have the opportunity to address the General Assembly on the final review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). Let me seize this opportunity to reiterate my country's full solidarity with African countries, all of which belong to the family of developing economies.

Looking at Africa and judging from various socio-economic indicators, one cannot but arrive at the inevitable conclusion that despite the large number of wide-ranging efforts and initiatives made in the past, the overall economic and development situation of the continent as a whole and of most of its individual countries is disquieting, to say the least. Those efforts and initiatives, including UN-NADAF, have simply failed to deliver. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/156) on the final review and appraisal of UN-NADAF and the independent evaluation on that issue are further testimony to a rather sad and disappointing conclusion.

It is exactly for that reason that we welcome the recommendation of the Secretary-General on the closure of UN-NADAF and its replacement with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), initiated from within Africa, and that NEPAD should be the policy framework around which the international community, including the United Nations system, concentrates its efforts for Africa's development. The NEPAD initiative is a clear indication of the serious approach of African leaders to questions related to reform and governance. Equally, it also reflects the fact that African countries have recognized their primary responsibility for the development of their own continent and their own countries; this indeed, is a welcome development.

I would like to urge the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure an effective and coordinated United Nations response to NEPAD, which has already been adopted at the African Union Summit. From our point of view, action in this regard should take into account the final appraisal of UN-NADAF and in particular the lessons learned. That would not only provide a further opportunity for us to take stock of a comprehensive intergovernmental review of developments in Africa over the past decade, but would also help in adjusting policies and practices in the light of lessons learned.

Much has been said and written about conflicts in Africa and their devastating impact on the overall development of the continent. There is hardly any need for further attempts to enumerate the causes of tragic local conflicts gripping Africa. Rather, it is high time for the international community in its entirety and, of course, first and foremost, Africans themselves, to put an effective end to the involvement and instigation of foreign companies and Governments in fomenting and protracting these deadly conflicts. Beyond such meddling, however, the real long-term culprits remain the state of underdevelopment and the lack of democracy.

We believe that development is the best building block of peace. Peace and development are simply indivisible. Therefore, achieving development — and in a very practical, tangible sense, economic growth and poverty eradication — should be at the heart of conflict prevention strategies. At the same time, there should be a coordinated and comprehensive approach towards combining peace-building, emergency assistance and long-term development support measures, also as they relate to the destruction of weapons and the reconstruction of economic, social and physical infrastructure. In this particular connection, tangible and concrete support should be given to the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict, with a view to assessing their humanitarian and economic needs and elaborating a long-term programme of support for implementation that begins with integration of relief into development.

Mr. Neil (Jamaica): I wish to thank the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for their reports on the final review and appraisal of implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Ten years ago, the General Assembly decided that Africa would be one of the priorities of the United Nations in the 1990s and, in keeping with this decision, the international community committed itself to working with the African countries to address the serious economic and social problems facing their respective countries. Built into this programme for change and the advancement of the people of Africa was also a commitment on the part of African Governments to promote dialogue, to implement economic and social policies with the goal of increasing the growth rate of their economies, and to enhance the health and welfare of the people.

That mutual commitment was also preceded by the five-year United Nations Plan of Action for African Recovery and Development, and in the light of that experience, it would not be entirely surprising if the launching of a new initiative for Africa may generate some scepticism.

Having studied the Secretary-General's report on the independent evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (A/57/156 and Corr.1), my delegation recognizes that there is a combination of factors which have denied the majority of African people their fundamental right to certain basic acceptable standards of living.

The United Nations appraisal of the previous Programme for African Economic Recovery and Development in the 1980s, initiated by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), acknowledged the severe international economic climate during the five-year period of the Programme, especially plummeting commodity prices on the world market, leading to a loss of revenue amounting to $6 billion by African States during the first year of the Programme. During the five-year period, it is estimated that Africa lost more than $50 billion in export earnings.

Prescribed structural adjustment programmes resulted in tremendous social costs, and this has been identified as one of the major factors which retarded the advancement of the African people. Poverty increased overall, with education, health, nutrition, employment and incomes all declining.

The New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s raised the level of expectation for the development of Africa. This time, there was a commitment by the partners to meet certain goals which would lead to an overall objective of an average growth rate of at least 6 per cent.

The process, as we now recognize, has been disappointing. Not only have the external commitments been less than what was required to make a difference, but we must also face the reality that, despite the economic and political reforms which many African countries began to introduce, internal political difficulties in some countries limited the effect of the external support that was provided.

The lesson from all this is that the prescribed development model and the development strategy for Africa may not always be appropriate and that there is need for some adjustment to take the peculiarities of Africa into account.

The Assembly adopted a resolution on 16 September this year issuing a declaration on a new Partnership for Africa's Development. My delegation wholeheartedly supports this Africa-led initiative and welcomes the commitment made by the African countries to adhere to certain principles of governance.

We also encourage the donor community to do it right this time. Resources are needed to give meaning to the spirit of true partnership, which will be of mutual benefit in this world of interdependence.

I wish to thank the Steering Committee countries — South Africa, Algeria, Nigeria, Egypt and Senegal — for the important role they have played in bringing the process to this launching point. Special thanks should also go to the Secretary-General for his commitment to the development of Africa and to all the other countries and partners with whose support this new process will achieve the success we all hope for.

Mr. Niang (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of my delegation, I am very happy to extend to the President our great thanks and appreciation for his highly commendable initiative of dedicating this important meeting to two issues of concern to the international community, and which reflect very clearly the major challenges facing Africa today.

I should first like to say that my delegation fully endorses the statement by the Permanent Representative of Egypt, made on behalf of African countries. I should also like to offer my warmest congratulations to Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his very relevant progress report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report on causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/57/172). I would also like to commend him for the very serious and swift manner in which he has been carrying out his mandate. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Mauritius, Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, who, at the head of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, has in a very short period of time been able to implement a global and integrated approach to conflict in Africa.

In December 2001, in its resolution 56/37, the General Assembly endorsed some of the Working Group's proposals, and decided, inter alia, briefly to suspend the activities of the Group in order to consider further measures for the implementation and monitoring of initiatives on Africa. It also decided to continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's 1998 report.

Today we are pleased to see that tangible progress has been made in strengthening confidence-building measures; in establishing a spirit of peace and reconciliation; in the process of regional cooperation and integration in Africa; in the harmonious coordination and integration of bilateral and multilateral initiatives for economic and social development in Africa; in the area of the promotion, maintenance and strengthening of peace; and in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In West Africa, the progress can be gauged by, inter alia, United Nations support for initiatives to re-establish trust and promote cooperation within the Mano River Union, the helpful support by the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) for political normalization in that country, and the timely establishment of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa.

Although this progress is significant, peace has still not come to many parts of the continent, where the illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons is making the situation of entire populations very fragile and obstructing commendable efforts by West African States to build a community area of peace, security and prosperity.

The 15 States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) took the bull by the horns by deciding to adopt the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa and to set up national committees to curb the illicit propagation of these dangerous weapons. But nobody should be mistaken about this fact: these courageous initiatives can be successful only if the international community continues its valuable support for the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and

Development, which is designed to support the Moratorium.

Other problems include the ravages of malaria and HIV/AIDS, which have a negative impact on human resources, as we work together to develop our countries in Africa.

The difficulties facing the African continent are thus multifaceted. Only a concerted and holistic approach can overcome them. We are pleased to note the significant progress that has been made in coordinating the activities of the Security Council and of the Economic and Social Council, particularly with the recent establishment of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African countries emerging from conflict. We cannot overemphasize the fact that studying the case of Guinea-Bissau could be useful as a reference case for United Nations efforts at peace-building in that area, which has suffered so much from conflict.

Also, I greatly appreciate the finely honed progress report by the Secretary-General; it has highlighted the indissoluble dialectic link between the promotion of peace and sustainable development.

This leads me to the second item in our debate. Here I would like to say how greatly I appreciate the excellent report of the Secretary-General (A/57/156) on the independent evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). It describes some of the lessons learned in the 10 years of our common commitment to the implementation of UN-NADAF and makes relevant and specific proposals as to what should be done in the future.

The Senegalese delegation endorses the Secretary-General's recommendation on translating into reality the entire international community's interest in NEPAD through tangible actions. focusing on: vigorously combating poverty, which undermines any effort at development; developing industry and agriculture; promoting regional economic integration; protecting the environment; protecting peace, democracy and human rights; establishing a code of good political and economic governance; and developing the use of information and communication technologies at the continent-wide level.

That is why the advent of NEPAD, a programme designed by Africans for Africans, must bring a new dynamic into North-South relations, where strategic choices freely identified by African leaders must be in consonance with United Nations initiatives and the Millennium Development Goals.

I should also like to say that Senegal fully agrees with the belief of the Panel of Eminent Personalities that the work of the United Nations as it pertains to Africa needs to become more relevant and more effective. Without prejudging future recommendations of the Secretary-General on this subject, my delegation would like to see follow-up and support for NEPAD by the United Nations system and other parts of the international community; at the Secretariat level this would be the responsibility of a single structure with the resources to cope with its wide-ranging and important mandate.

In that vein, I also welcome the adoption by the Group of Eight (G-8) at Kananaskis, Canada, of the Plan of Action for Africa, reflecting the will and commitment of the G-8 countries to support Africa in its new efforts for peace and development through NEPAD.

Obviously, African development cannot be accomplished by the sons and daughters of Africa alone. In this era of globalization, our global village will benefit if all participate fully in promoting a world of peace and prosperity in solidarity.

Ms. Anguiano Rodríguez (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Over the past year, we have noted significant progress towards resolving a number of conflicts in Africa. In that context, it is important to mention the cases of Sierra Leone, Angola, Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar, a country in which it was possible to overcome a political and Government crisis, which could have led to a widespread armed conflict.

These achievements are due to a great extent to the political will and pragmatism of the parties involved in the conflicts, as well as to internal circumstances that opened the path to peace, which is what clearly happened in Angola, with the death of Jonas Savimbi. In some cases, this has also been the result of the mediating role of the United Nations and, in others, the result of steps taken by the main regional and subregional organizations and of particular countries and prestigious African political figures. The role of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which is now the African Union (AU), and the role of the continent's subregional organizations have also

been fundamental in this process, as well as has the level of cooperation between the United Nations and those organizations.

The Secretary-General has emphasized in his report (A/57/172) that peace and stability, good governance, democracy and respect for human rights are preconditions for attaining development. Nevertheless, it is also certain that peace and stability cannot be lasting, and democracy cannot be strengthened, without development. The States that are emerging from conflicts — particularly those that are poorest — lack the financial resources and the infrastructure to jump-start their economies. The support of the international community, including international financial institutions, is fundamental in such cases, and that must be reiterated. Moreover, we must not forget that the maintenance, and especially the consolidation, of peace require sustained national and international efforts in which a series of factors are taken into account. The premature withdrawal of international support for a peace process — particularly the early termination of a peace mission — could easily result in the breakdown of peace and the recurrence of conflict.

An essential element for lasting peace is national reconciliation, not only at the level of the principal actors in the conflict but also at that of society as a whole, particularly because civilian populations are increasingly used as military targets, but also because sometimes it is civilians who are partially responsible for the most horrendous violations of human rights. National reconciliation commissions and war crimes tribunals in their various modalities, or a combination of both, are an instrument that can contribute in an important way to such reconciliation. That is why my Government made a symbolic financial contribution to the trust fund for the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mexico believes that it will be an effective mechanism for assisting in national reconciliation and justice in that country, which in turn will benefit the stability of the Mano River region. We trust that the Court will work in close cooperation with the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone for the sake of that objective.

An aspect that merits attention in peacekeeping and peace-building processes is the degree of political, economic and social stability experienced in countries of the same region. The Great Lakes region is an example of how a conflict in a particular country can affect another country's internal situation and regional stability in general. That is why, as Chair of the Security Council Sanctions Committee concerning Sierra Leone, Mexico has insisted that the situation in that country should be considered in its regional context, not in isolation. Peace in Sierra Leone is still very fragile, and its consolidation will depend in large part on the situation in Liberia not deteriorating and on the Mano River region as a whole enjoying political, social and economic stability.

Another aspect of peace-building that has been pointed out — not only in the report but also in other contexts — that deserves our full attention is the issue of the processes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. It is essential to systematically incorporate gender perspectives into those processes. Recently, we had the opportunity to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the signing of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique. On that occasion, we noted that the success of the peace process in that country is due largely to the good development of the process of demobilization and reintegration of former combatants into civilian life. The experience acquired in Mozambique should prove useful in other situations.

Mr. Maiga (Mali) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I should like to associate myself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the African Group.

Africa attaches particular importance to the two items before the General Assembly, related to the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and to the independent evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). The delegation of Mali would like to thank the Secretary-General and the Panel of Eminent Personalities for their contributions to the quality of the presentation of the reports under those items.

The report relating to the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/57/172) contains useful and up-to-date information on areas of high priority for Africa — namely, peace, security, good governance and sustainable development. My country, Mali, through its initiatives and actions, and African leaders have always focused on the maintenance of peace and

security as well as on the creation of conditions for integrated and endogenous development at the continental level.

The creation of the African Union proceeds from the resolve of African countries to put in place a continental organization with a view to accelerating the integration process. African subregional organizations are essential tools in conflict prevention, in the preservation of peace and security and in the implementation of development programmes. My delegation believes that the support of the United Nations — and of the international community in general — for the new dynamic in Africa is more than ever necessary at a time when the continent is focused on the factors of stability, peace and good governance with a view to relaunching socio-economic development and emerging from the vicious circle of poverty.

My delegation welcomes the actions undertaken by the United Nations and by its funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the context of supporting African initiatives concerning conflict management, reconstruction and the rehabilitation of economies damaged by the effects of conflicts. For the actions of those institutions and organs to have an impact, it is necessary to transform the commitments signed during various conferences requesting contributions for emergency assistance and for financing United Nations operational activities into financial resources, thus allowing the implementation of established assistance and rehabilitation programmes.

When it was adopted, UN-NADAF gave rise to legitimate hopes for the development of Africa. It should be noted that, despite vigorous actions taken to promote economic policy reform and structural adjustments with a view to implementing commitments made vis-à-vis the international community, the results fell short of the expectations of African peoples. The report prepared by the Panel of Eminent Personalities charged with reviewing UN-NADAF states: "Instead of growing, ODA to Africa declined during the decade, from $28.62 billion in 1990 to $16.38 billion in 2000, a decline of 43 per cent." (*A/AC.251/9, p. 4*)

In addition, tariff and non-tariff barriers are among the obstacles to the commercial expansion of African development in an increasingly globalized world. The fund for the diversification of African products that was envisaged in UN-NADAF never materialized. The burden of foreign debt, despite the initiatives undertaken with a view to lightening it, continues to be one of the major obstacles to development programmes because of its heavy drain on our meagre resources.

In the light of those considerations, the review report submitted by the Panel of Eminent Personalities leads to the conclusion that UN-NADAF has been a failure.

To reverse those negative trends of the past decade, Africa needs more than ever the firm commitment of the international community to support its development programme. NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, is the best framework for dialogue and for relaunching a partnership between Africa and the rest of the world.

Designed by Africans themselves, NEPAD is a strategic framework, with Africa's options for development within the context of the African Union. The issues of good governance, democracy, poverty reduction, achieving integrated endogenous development in the context of the African Union are the main focus of NEPAD.

NEPAD, which will replace UN-NADF, needs more than ever the international community's support in order to succeed. We must draw lessons from UN-NADF's failure, so that we can make NEPAD a real success. As in the case of UN-NADF, the success of NEPAD will depend primarily on responses to the basic issues of mobilizing sufficient resources for Africa, access to markets, foreign debt and strengthening Africa's development capacity. In that context, an appropriate follow-up monitoring mechanism is essential. At the inter-governmental level, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will play a central role. The United Nations follow-up mechanism should be strengthened to coordinate and channel the efforts of the various players towards Africa. Similarly, structures within the United Nations Secretariat must have sufficient financial and human resources to implement NEPAD.

Africa is resolved more than ever to take charge of its economic and social development within the context of the new partnership. The international community's support is necessary to assist Africa in implementing its development programme. Success in that area will be an important parameter in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration

objectives of September 2000, whereby the General Assembly unanimously supported NEPAD.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on items 33 and 41 for this meeting. We shall continue the debate on this item this afternoon at 3 p.m.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

United Nations A/57/PV.34

General Assembly

Official Records

Fifty-seventh session

34th plenary meeting
Thursday, 17 October 2002, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

In the absence of the President, Miss Clarke (Barbados), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda items 33 and 41 (*continued*)

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/172)

Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

(a) Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/156 and Corr.1)

(b) Implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/175)

Ms. Ndhlovu (South Africa): I wish to thank the Secretary-General for the reports he prepared on the agenda items on Africa before us today. As we said during the three-day debate on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), we found his report on that item (A/57/156 and Corr.1) to be very useful and informative. That report has been very important in shaping the draft resolution that was adopted only this morning in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly, which is bringing the UN-NADAF era to a close and replacing it with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the new policy framework for Africa, around which the international community, including the United Nations, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development.

The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/57/172) contains a very insightful analysis and diagnosis of the challenges facing Africa, with most useful proposals and comments. The updated matrix on the implementation of the Secretary-General's original recommendations gives a clear picture of progress that has been made, as well as continuing constraints while proposing remedial action. This is an excellent planning tool for future action.

Before I comment further on the reports before us, allow me to make some observations about today's debate. This is quite a momentous day, not only because of the importance of the items under discussion, but because Africa is, in a way, leading the way in the United Nations reform process.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

02-64408 (E)

We constantly hear calls for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations, including the General Assembly. Today there is an example of what can be done. We have recognized the linkages between the three items on African development on the General Assembly agenda and, in the spirit of a comprehensive and holistic approach to issues, these items have been combined into one debate. This allows us to address all these issues and thereby avoid potential duplication in the debates of the General Assembly. This, in my delegation's view, is a good example of improving the work programme of the General Assembly.

My delegation also has other reasons for believing that it is appropriate for these items to be considered together. The Secretary-General's report of 1998 stressed the link between peace and development, while presenting a comprehensive and holistic approach to conflict prevention, poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) that will in future replace the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) item on the General Assembly's agenda, also clearly recognized that linkage, when it acknowledged that peace and security, among other things, are conditions for sustainable development.

As we have said in recent weeks we had numerous occasions to reflect on the Secretary-General's report on the UN-NADAF review and appraisal, therefore allow me to today focus my comments on the report on the "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

My delegation commends the role of the Secretary-General over the last months in assisting with the prevention and resolution of conflicts, not only in Africa but all over the world. We have witnessed the rewards of his determined vision for peace in Sierra Leone with the successful holding of democratic elections in that country, and the progress registered in nurturing peace in the subregion. We also welcome the Secretary-General's unrelenting efforts to bring about peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region.

In July 2002, at the inaugural Summit of the African Union, African leaders, inspired by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), took the historic decision to alter and enhance the mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa. An important element of this decision was the acknowledgement that African countries, collectively, should enhance their peacekeeping capacities in order to intervene in conflicts with a view to their resolution. This recognition stems from the reality that there remains a significant gap in some quarters of the international community when the requirement is to act on African conflicts.

There is no doubt about the complexity of the task at hand; in order for any efforts to be successful, a range of partnerships between African countries and the rest of the international community will be required. The focus of these partnerships, however, needs to move beyond the mere training of peacekeepers, to look seriously at what the real needs are in order to ensure effective peacekeeping by African countries. An important aspect in this regard is the provision of logistical support and other key resources that are critical for the success of any peacekeeping operation.

It is my delegation's view that the United Nations is suitably placed to play a leading role in facilitating and establishing these partnerships. My delegation will be working with others in the next few months to explore the possible areas where the United Nations could make a contribution to African efforts in conflict resolution.

In Africa, we are beginning to make great progress in our efforts to achieve peace. However, the mere resolution of conflict and the establishment of peace are not sufficient for creating a stable and prosperous continent. Post-conflict reconstruction and development are important to the delivery of an early peace dividend and essential for launching sustainable development, thereby minimizing the destitution and marginalization which could form the seedbeds in which the next conflict could germinate.

My delegation is thus particularly encouraged by the recent decision by the Economic and Social Council to establish an Ad hoc Advisory Group on African countries emerging from conflict. We also welcome the decision to respond positively to the request by Guinea-Bissau for such an Advisory Group, and my delegation looks forward to contributing as much as possible to the success of the Group. We are

also convinced that it could make a real contribution to the sustainable development and rebuilding of that fellow African country and that the people of Guinea-Bissau deserve no less from this Organization.

The issues highlighted in the Secretary-General's report as being important for building durable peace and encouraging sustainable development in Africa coincide fully with the thinking in NEPAD. The promotion of good governance, capacity-building, human resource development, public health services, the role of women, international aid, debt relief, market access, and regional cooperation and integration, mentioned in the report, are very much in line with the priorities contained in this initiative. We fully subscribe to the idea that all these issues, while by no means suggested as exhaustive, are important when trying to address the way to ensure durable peace and sustainable development on the continent.

My delegation also fully supports the proposals in the report on the full funding of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, on the untying of aid to all African countries in order to improve aid effectiveness and on the need to fully address the external debt situation of all heavily indebted African countries.

While Africa has taken control of its own development agenda in NEPAD, it has also recognized the critical role of international support in true partnership. This includes the need to provide increased resources to the continent. We thus support the proposal made in the report that the Secretary-General urge the donor community to double official flows to Africa, in line with the recommendations made at the March 2002 meeting of the High Level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination.

We are all excited by the fact that Africa has taken charge of its own future through NEPAD. This is also an invitation to the international community to forge new partnerships through which we can together strive towards achieving the Millennium and other development goals. Let us not be found wanting.

In this respect, my delegation is particularly pleased that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s this morning adopted the resolution on UN-NADAF and NEPAD. We believe that it provides a very good framework for developing international support for NEPAD. We also appreciate the balanced manner in which it approached the issue by addressing the roles of all stakeholders. It also recognized the primacy of African countries in the development and implementation of NEPAD.

It is important, in our deliberations on NEPAD, to remember that these deliberations are not abstract, but are focused on how we deliver NEPAD, because lying behind the question of how to take NEPAD forward are questions such as how to take our macroeconomic gains down to the farmers in our rural villages and to the shopkeepers and hawkers in our cities, and how to ensure that mothers can raise healthy children who can take advantage of well-run schools.

Over the past two years, we have seen a number of international summits and conferences, such as the Millennium Summit, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, all of which embraced the notion of partnership. This has been elaborated to address the serious challenges in the international financial architecture, poverty reduction and development facing the global community and Africa in particular.

African finance ministers and their deputies are meeting at this moment in Johannesburg to consider and construct their end of the partnership, not because anybody says they must, but to show leadership in identifying and resolving the serious challenges confronting us.

Mr. Valdivieso (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Colombia is pleased to participate in this debate of the General Assembly dedicated, in essence, to the special needs of the economic development of Africa, the achievement of lasting peace in the continent and the ways in which the United Nations should respond to these objectives.

In particular, we are tasked with the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), which, for 10 years, was the framework of the efforts of our Organization in favour of African development.

It is an endeavour made possible today thanks to the informative documents prepared by the Secretariat and, especially, to the independent assessment of the implementation of UN-NADAF conducted by the group of eminent personalities led by Mr. Kwesi Botchwey. Let me thank him and his collaborators for the high quality of the document submitted and their valuable conclusions and recommendations.

My delegation also wishes to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes that throughout these 10 years have carried out the African programmes. Thanks to them, the States Members of the United Nations have been in a position to share in the solidarity and efforts for economic and social development of the African peoples and their longing for peace. We count on this decade-long experience to renew the work of the Organization for the years to come.

The delegation of Colombia shares the view widely expressed in this debate and by the heads of State and ministers of foreign affairs who spoke during the high-level meeting on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) on 16 September, to the effect that the goals of NEPAD must be our anchor in designing the future relationship of the United Nations with the countries of Africa.

It is a relationship to be based on deepening the goals of NEPAD in three different spheres: first, the African countries themselves, as they incorporate the NEPAD vision into their own strategic planning; secondly, the United Nations, as the reality of NEPAD runs through the several strata of the Organization; and thirdly, the partner countries of African development, in particular the more advanced economies in the world.

We remain fully convinced that the goals of the NEPAD vision — peace, security, democracy and good governance, as well as the social and economic development and regional cooperation and integration of Africa — can be consolidated by and benefit from the help of the strengths of the United Nations. Our Organization is in a position to offer information and analysis, as well as technical assistance; to act as a forum to advocate and articulate the interests of African peoples; and also, by bringing the international community together, to undertake actions in favour of peace and international development.

We need, of course, to adjust these strengths to the particular needs of Africa. In that respect, the independent appraisers of UN-NADAF recommend to us two basic measures: first, providing the United Nations with sufficient means to carry out this mission; and secondly, bringing harmony into its universe of programmes.

They also put before us a set of practical measures already reflected in the draft resolution whose negotiation is being ably conducted by the delegation of Brazil. For instance, there is a need to concentrate in one office of the Secretariat the preparation of all the reports on the development of Africa and to manage the implementation of the new African programme at the appropriate executive level. In addition, our delegation believes that the annual deliberation on African issues by the General Assembly could be combined into one single debate.

We are mindful that the long-term purpose of the African peoples is, as stated in the NEPAD action plan,

> "to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world".

That is a goal that a developing country such as Colombia can fully appreciate and share. We have therefore found it worthwhile to work with other countries of Latin America on plans for regional and subregional economic integration.

In addition, our efforts to integrate ourselves into today's globalized economy have given rise to as-yet unmet expectations that could nevertheless serve as points of reference for African countries. A report by the United Nations Development Programme looking into Latin America's experience with globalization, singled out, among other things, the region's difficulty in protecting its peoples from the negative effects of globalization, a concentration of knowledge and wealth at the level of the elite, rising environmental degradation and the phenomenon of economic growth in the absence of growth in employment. These findings should signal to African countries that they should not expect too much from globalization.

Finally, given that we have participated in the Security Council for almost two years, the delegation of Colombia is particularly keen to comment on the issue of how peace and security are linked to Africa's development. The Secretary-General's 1998 report on

the causes of conflict and the promotion of development had already clearly illustrated that negative correlation. In fact, one of the major conclusions of the assessment team that evaluated the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s put it very succinctly: conflict and development are mortal enemies. That fact is confirmed annually by the *Human Development Report*, which also points out that countries at the bottom of the human development index are either going through conflicts or emerging from them.

In the Security Council we have supported the efforts made by the United Nations to strengthen African countries' successful initiatives. We very much welcome the current peace negotiations taking place in Kenya with regard to the Sudan and Somalia. We also welcome the return of peace to Sierra Leone and Angola this year, and look with optimism to the progress being made in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Looking to the future, we would like to single out three healthy trends within the Organization regarding peacekeeping and security in Africa. The first of those trends is the deepening relationship between the United Nations and the African Union and various regional and subregional organizations in the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peace-building. In that vein, for example, the Council this week has expressed its support for the observation force that the Economic Community of Central African States will deploy on the border between Chad and the Central African Republic.

The second trend is the growing tendency of the Organization to focus on the regional character of conflicts and, in so doing, to name special representatives for the relevant regions. At the moment, such representatives have been named for the Great Lakes region and for West Africa, the latter of which was the subject of a debate during Colombia's presidency of the Council in August 2001.

The third trend is reflected in the excellent work being carried out by the Security Council Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, which is being led in an exemplary manner by the Ambassador of Mauritius. One of the Group's accomplishments has been to bring together the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council to focus on their respective management functions relating to strengthening peace in countries emerging from conflict.

The experiences I have mentioned serve to encourage my delegation's belief that cooperation between the United Nations as a whole and African countries can indeed be fruitful. Such cooperation should also occur in every area of concern to the continent. That is the conviction that brings us to this debate — a belief on whose behalf he delegation of Colombia is prepared to make its best effort.

Mr. George (Nigeria): The popular image of Africa in the outside world, in both electronic and print media, is one of incessant conflict and political instability. Yet it need not be so, because in reality Africa is a richly endowed continent, beautiful and hospitable. Conflicts within and between African countries are neither innate nor necessarily inevitable. Given the right attitude and approach, they could be prevented or minimized, if not totally eradicated. In that regard, Nigeria welcomes the continuing efforts of the United Nations, and especially the personal commitment of the Secretary-General, to solving conflicts and laying the foundation for durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

Taking into account the Secretary-General's comprehensive report (A/52/871) on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, the world community can no longer feign ignorance of the causes and effects of conflict in Africa. The landmark report, for which we thank the Secretary-General, not only identified the root causes of the conflicts on the continent, it also spelled out the roles that African leaders and the international community, including the United Nations system, can play in solving them. Furthermore, the report underscores the need for collective effort in the search for durable peace, stability, post-conflict reconstruction, reconciliation and rehabilitation.

Indeed, different studies and sources attest to the fact that Africa's conflicts reflect the continent's diversity, historical evolution and experience, as well as its engagement with the outside world. They are located in the history of Africa, its colonial past and the challenges of building virile and sustainable modern State structures. Those challenges have been compounded by the dynamics of internal politics, often

interpreted and seen as the spoils of office. Access to political power brings with it benefits, privileges and a sense of security; while the lack of access creates insecurity, rivalry and outright hostility.

Economic motivations, often dictated by profit and greed, are also known to be responsible for conflict in Africa. It is pertinent to note that the traffic in arms, blood diamonds, oil and other commodities would be less intense were there no gains for the traffickers. However, many conflicts have become intractable due to the gains derived while they lasted. We also cannot take for granted the contribution of peculiarity and circumstance in fuelling conflict in Africa. The struggle for land, control of natural resources, access to amenities, ethnicity, religious beliefs and other incipient factors are known to have caused countless conflicts in Africa.

As could be expected, the cost of those conflicts to Africa is incalculable in both human and material terms. It was against the background of that heavy toll that the Secretary-General drew the conclusion that the consequences of those conflicts have seriously undermined Africa's efforts to ensure long-term stability, prosperity and peace for its peoples. More importantly, he admitted that preventing war — and, by implication, conflict — in Africa was no longer a matter of defending States but one of defending humanity itself.

The need for peace and stability in Africa is therefore as urgent today as it was in 1998, when the Secretary-General released his report on the sources of conflict on the continent. Now as then, Africa is mired in different conflicts of varied nature and intensity. We note the positive reaction of the international community to the Secretary-General's report and the practical measures that have been taken to date in the quest for durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The latest report (A/57/172) indicates that progress has been made in responding to conflict situations through peacemaking, peacekeeping, preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building. We call on the United Nations to sustain the momentum in promoting peace and development in Africa as a matter of the utmost priority.

As we engage in this joint debate on the twin agenda issues of the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and the final review and appraisal of UN-NADAF, we cannot but agree with the Secretary-General that good governance is a prerequisite for durable peace and sustainable development. As is aptly put in the report of the expert panel on the evaluation and review of UN-NADAF, conflict and development are mortal enemies.

For us in Nigeria, this statement resonates because it captures our experience as a country grappling with the challenges of nation-building, socio-economic development and the preservation and promotion of peace in Africa. The military in Nigeria handed over power to a democratically elected Government only three and a half years ago, after 15 years in power. The restoration of civil rule has necessitated a fresh start in the process of democratization.

Consequently, the challenges of meeting heightened expectations after many years of deprivation, ensuring participation and inclusiveness in the process of governance, and striking a balance between national unity and stability have combined to test our skills and capacities. Notwithstanding the competing demands for our lean resources, we have continued to be active participants in peacekeeping operations within and outside Africa. In West Africa alone, Nigeria spent over $10 billion on peacekeeping operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Internally, our efforts at development have yielded mixed results due to many factors. Instilling a culture of democracy, accountability, transparency and good governance has not been an easy task. Nonetheless, we affirm that democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for fundamental freedoms are essential for human intellect and human potential, which abound in our country, to flourish.

In an environment riddled with developmental problems such as poverty, disease, ignorance and unemployment, the Government has had to make deliberate choices in its programmes. Other inhibiting factors include our excruciating external debt burden, dwindling commodity prices, lack of market access and low productive capacity. Yet we realize that development is not an option; it is a necessity. Thus, our Government has concentrated on poverty alleviation, education, health, agriculture and the provision of safe drinking water as its main priorities.

UN-NADAF was intended to help Africa overcome the challenges of development. Indeed, the

programme was derived from two previous international cooperation arrangements, namely Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The international community adopted the Programme to address the multifarious social and economic problems that confronted the continent in the mid-1980s, especially the problems of pervasive poverty, infant mortality, disease and low economic growth.

We should also keep at the back of our minds the fact that the decade of UN-NADAF was also Africa's most trying decade in recent memory. It was the decade in which the continent, saddled with commitments and obligations arising from UN-NADAF, was embroiled in numerous conflicts of catastrophic consequences. Regrettably, UN-NADAF did not deliver the much-needed benefits it was designed to yield. Instead, its performance has been judged to be very disappointing. In the absence of the necessary political will and of the fulfilment of commitments by African leaders and their development partners, the pursuit of Africa's development has remained elusive.

This final review and appraisal should therefore offer us an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned from the implementation of UN-NADAF. We can also draw from those lessons in charting a new course of action as we decide on the future engagement of the United Nations with Africa.

On 16 September, in this very Hall, a memorable debate took place on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The debate was later followed by that of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Assembly on 25 and 26 September. On both occasions, a central message emerged: that NEPAD was the appropriate framework through which the international community, including the United Nations, should channel its support for Africa. The principles and objectives of NEPAD have been well articulated within the United Nations in recent times and therefore need no reiteration here. Suffice it to say that the United Nations system must lend its support to the Programme for it to succeed.

Support for NEPAD must demonstrably be unconditional, qualitative and quantitative; it must be, at all levels, greater than that given to UN-NADAF. In this connection, official development assistance flows, which declined in real terms in the 1990s, should be regular and predictable. Market access should be provided in developed countries for African products. Transfer of technology on preferential and mutually agreed terms should be extended to African countries. African Governments and the African people — male and female — should bear primary responsibility for the implementation of NEPAD, as this is the only way to ensure and guarantee African ownership and leadership of the programme. But it will be necessary to allow each African country to evolve its own development strategy, based on objective socio-economic realities and on the need to protect the most vulnerable members of society.

To further support NEPAD, there will also be a need to inject new ideas into the consideration of the issue of Africa's external debt. The dismal results of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative, as shown during the review of UN-NADAF, point to the inadequacy and limitations of the programme. Out of 33 African countries eligible for HIPC, only 18 reached "decision point", and, of that number, only six made it through to "completion point" to qualify for debt cancellation as of April 2002. The implication is that rescue programmes based on conditionalities are ineffective. Therefore, debt cancellation for all heavily indebted countries should form the basis of the support provided to African countries.

More than anything, there is an urgent need for human development and capacity-building on the continent. The problem of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and of other debilitating diseases must be tackled head-on for Africa to cast off its yoke of underdevelopment. Happily, these concerns, among others, form the bedrock of NEPAD's objectives. NEPAD is an acknowledgement of the need for Africa to take its destiny in its own hands and to assume responsibility for the eradication of poverty. Collectively and individually, African countries have pledged to resolve and prevent conflicts and to promote a culture of peace, economic growth and sustainable development.

What is now required is for the international community to join hands with Africa to help in realizing the lofty objectives of NEPAD in a spirit of true partnership. The pledges of support already announced by groups and individual countries are commendable. In this respect, we sincerely hope that the ghost of UN-NADAF, commitments to which were not fulfilled, will be laid to rest. We further urge that

the pledges announced be fulfilled without delay or encumbrances.

Nigeria welcomes the establishment of the Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, as well as the General Assembly Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict. For these efforts to be meaningful and their effects lasting, they must be complemented with a total ban on the trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Africa desperately needs peace, and the international community can help in fostering peace in the continent.

We note the decision of the Secretary General to streamline and harmonize Africa-related reporting by the United Nations system. However, we expect the Secretary- General to submit a detailed proposal on how the United Nations would mobilize systemwide support as well as provide resources for the implementation of NEPAD. There should be coordination at both the regional and country levels to ensure coherence and consistency. We in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have already taken the lead in organizing this coordination, and other regions in Africa are doing the same. We welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as its framework policy programme for the development of Africa and as the successor to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. NEPAD adequately addresses the present issues of concern to Africa and, if supported and effectively implemented, will finally lift the continent out of the throes of underdevelopment. Africa will thus truly claim its place in the twenty-first century.

Mr. Amer (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): The representative of Egypt this morning made a statement on behalf of the African Group. My delegation supports his statement. Allow me now to make a statement on the two items before us.

This is the third time this session that the General Assembly has held joint debates on more than one agenda item. We thank the Secretary-General for his clear and comprehensive report (A/57/172) to the General Assembly on the implementation of the recommendations made five years ago in his report on "Causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa". We also wish to thank him for the report (A/57/156) on the detailed evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) and on the obstacles that hindered its implementation.

When we discussed the situation in Africa in the past, it was said that all indicators projected that by 2002, at the time of the final appraisal of UN-NADAF, we would face challenges that would surpass what we faced during its implementation. Indeed, disappointment led some to say that political and economical conditions would have deteriorated beyond all expectations.

Today, however, as we review those conditions, it is quite clear that the situation is different. The Secretary-General has himself said that average economic growth in Africa reached 3.1 per cent during 2001, and that some African countries have attained a growth rate of more than 5 per cent. In the concluding observations of one of his reports, he said that

> "progress has been made towards restoring peace and stability in the region. The peace process in Ethiopia and Eritrea is being consolidated and the Great Lakes region is showing signs of stability ... Angola ... is moving towards peace ... Sierra Leone, had its successful elections ... restoring democracy in that country" (*A/57/172, para. 43*)

We are happy with these positive developments and with the peace efforts that have come from African initiatives: from Sirte, Lusaka, Algiers, Pretoria and other cities. This testifies to a fact that has been widely repeated: only Africans can make a difference in Africa.

It is only fair to say that the United Nations has made significant contributions solving the problems that are affecting Africa. The Secretary-General has named envoys to facilitate the settlement and management of disputes and to foster dialogue between parties in conflict. The United Nations also continues its peace efforts in the Republic of Central Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are happy that the Secretary-General has appointed a Special Representative for West Africa in support of efforts aimed at the establishment of peace and stability.

African problems have received considerable attention in the General Assembly, in the Security Council and in the Economic and Social Council. We

also recall the efforts of other organizations, such as the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, addressing the needs and the repatriation of women and children. We should also mention the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, which has helped in the reintegration of combatants in African countries that were afflicted by conflict.

These success stories are very encouraging. However, progress in other fields has been quite limited and as the Secretary-General said in paragraph 44 of document A/57/172, the growth rate that Africa has achieved falls short of the 7 per cent necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015. The AIDS epidemic is one of the main obstacles to development and causes the death of one million people annually, mostly children. During the 1990s, the economic environment was not conducive to sustainable development. External debt and debt servicing devoured most of Africa's already scarce resources. Official development assistance continued to fall while trade barriers and high tariffs made it difficult for African products to reach international markets, especially those of the developed countries.

Africa has proved that it is strongly committed to achieving peace and sustainable development. This is attested to by the establishment of the African Union which aims to unify the continent, put an end to hotbeds of tension, combat hunger, poverty and AIDS, and remove the effects of colonialism, which drained the resources and wealth of those countries. The African Union also aims to formulate strategies that will carry the people of Africa from underdevelopment and weakness to stability and strength.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the United Nations, the Secretary-General and United Nations agencies in supporting Africa in the fields of health, education, information technology. We call on the other partners to play the role required of them: those who committed themselves to Africa's development and pledged to contribute needed medicines and vaccines at affordable prices to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Africa needs barriers to its exports removed, as well as assistance in overcoming the problem of external debt and a commitment to meet the agreed target for official development assistance. There is also a need for more investment and an increased share in international trade, as well as for active participation in decision-making in international financial and economic forums.

One month ago, the Assembly adopted the significant United Nations Declaration (resolution 57/2) on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). That was another commitment by the international community to respond to the needs of the continent, in keeping with the Millennium Declaration. We are satisfied with that. However, the partnership should be real and effective, and it must respect the will, history, culture and values of the Africans and avoid imposing conditionalities or political terms that run counter to the particular characteristics of Africa.

Our partners should realize that their contributions also benefit their own societies. A halt to our decrease in migration through legislative or administrative measures would encourage Africans to remain on their continent, and thus to work for their own betterment. We believe that this can be achieved through the following measures: Giving priority to basic infrastructures, such as transportation and communication; focusing on water projects so that Africans can improve their agricultural production; halting restrictions on the transfer of technology and encouraging its indigenization; taking into account the suffering of Africans in the past centuries and the depletion and pillage of their resources; and addressing the very serious problem of the brain drain that is affecting the human resources of the continent to the benefit of the developed countries.

The Secretary-General has said that Africa is at a turning point. He is right, and that is why we have established the African Union. We have started on the path to development. We are trying to rid ourselves of all conflicts. This is an opportunity for the United Nations and the international community to help Africa reinforce peace and development in all its regions. Not achieving that would be a moral and political failure for the Organization, as well as for the entire international community. It is a challenge that we must all face together.

Ms. Wijono (Indonesia): On behalf of the Indonesian delegation, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the President for his able stewardship and guidance during the course of this

session. I would also like to commend the Secretary-General for the reports that frame our deliberation.

Indonesia subscribes to the view that the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa are closely linked to the prevalence of poverty on that continent. While the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/172) provides updates on progress in peacemaking, peace-building and reconstruction in Africa, Indonesia is convinced that only efforts to enhance the development of Africa can bring poverty under control, thereby eliminating the key cause of conflict.

Indonesia welcomes the progress achieved in addressing the causes of conflict and in promoting durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as described in the Secretary-General's report. In particular, Indonesia encourages the efforts by some African countries to reduce their military expenditure and supports the target of reducing expenditures on arms to less than 1.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, while attaining zero growth in military expenditures. In our view, war consumes and destroys resources already in place, and thus we believe that achieving such a target would facilitate the allocation of a larger share of national budgets to sustainable development programmes.

Indonesia attaches great importance to emergency assistance from the international community for post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa. The establishment of the United Nations Consolidated Appeals Process as a strategic planning tool for the promotion of transition from relief to development is a welcome initiative. While recognizing the important role that African countries themselves must play, we encourage the continued contribution of the international community, through the United Nations and its agencies, to the promotion of peace and development in Africa.

Indonesia emphasizes the important role that peace-friendly structural adjustment programmes can play. Indonesia supports the suggestion made by the Secretary-General that in providing those programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions should consider more flexible and effective measures which include the relaxing of some of the stringent conditionalities concerning economic performance, scaling up post-conflict funding, special assistance for reconstruction and poverty reduction interventions.

Indonesia also lauds the voluntary establishment by African leaders of the African Peer Review Mechanism to monitor progress in compliance with the high standards of good governance that have been set. That stands as testimony to the sincerity and commitment of African leaders in achieving peace for their people.

In addition to peace and security, there are other challenges to sustainable development in Africa. Those are financial constraints, market access problems, lack of information and communication technologies, issues of developing human capital and economic diversification, as well as infrastructure development.

In recognition of the link between peace and sustainable development, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which we joined in welcoming here during the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly last month, has strong potential to contribute to the realization of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

Emphasizing peace, security, democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and sound economic management as preconditions for sustainable development, NEPAD now embodies Africa's commitment to its own peaceful development and represents the policy framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should focus its efforts to assist Africa's development. It is my sincerest desire that this new initiative should meet with success, since failure would mean failure for us all in achieving the Millennium Development Goals to which we are all pledged.

In the context of achieving the objectives of NEPAD, we should recall the experience of implementing the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), which was launched in 1991. As the Secretary-General's report points out, UN-NADAF was at best a limited success. Its lack of progress was attributable to all the actors involved, both African countries and the international community.

A critical impediment to success was the cookie-cutter approach to achieving development over a vastly diverse group of countries. The mantra of "liberalize and privatize" without regard to the unique circumstances that prevail in any given country proved to be a canard. Therefore, national ownership of the development process is essential for fundamental

change to occur. Local institutions are best suited to satisfy local needs while maintaining local values. NEPAD clearly emphasizes national ownership of the development process; Indonesia welcomes that the international community is coming to accept that principal as critical to the success of the development process.

Another impediment was the failure of the parties to live up to their commitments. African countries never completely implemented the UN-NADAF programme, while official development assistance to Africa actually declined after the programme's launch.

Little progress was made on market access for African exports or debt relief for the poorest nations. Moreover, the programme was marred by a general lack of quantifiable objectives and targets for monitoring progress and compliance, this being one of the reasons for the limited success. Indonesia recognizes the importance of monitoring implementation of NEPAD, not only at the national level but also at the international level.

One area that UN-NADAF did not address was modern information and communications technologies, mainly the Internet. Since this new technology was largely unknown in 1991, this was not a failure of the UN-NADAF initiative, perhaps. But as of now, Africa is the least connected region in the world, with the lowest computer use, which results in many opportunities being squandered. We are particularly happy to learn that NEPAD has targeted information and communications technology as a priority area for development, and therefore efforts to assist Africa to bridge the digital divide for development should be encouraged.

Human, physical and financial capital is in short supply in Africa, but in fact there is a considerable supply of domestic entrepreneurial talent. Sixty to 70 per cent of employment in Africa is generated by micro-, small- and medium-size enterprises. However, a shortage of finance and a lack of connectivity prevent those smaller African firms from expanding regionally and globally as have many similar firms in other regions. Internet access could help promote African industry and exports and, conversely, help open Africa as a market for exports from other regions.

In evaluating UN-NADAF's failures in order to ensure NEPAD's success, it should be remembered that UN-NADAF failed for a variety of reasons. Peace and security are the highest goals of the United Nations and they should be so for NEPAD, as the elusive goal of development becomes ever more slippery without peace. Adequate financing is necessary to bring about development, but it is not sufficient without supporting polices from both African countries and the international community. The aftermath of the Monterrey Conference and the Johannesburg Summit has left the international community with a surplus of goodwill. Let us not repeat the failures of the past, but rather capitalize on the goodwill of the present by turning it into action for the future.

Mr. Mizukami (Japan): The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) will come to a formal conclusion during the current session of the General Assembly. From now on, support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) will be the main item on the agenda. In that context, I should like to state once again that Japan welcomes NEPAD as an expression of Africa's ownership.

We also welcome the joint debate being held today under agenda item 33, on causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and under agenda item 41 (a), on final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). Such an exercise can help to streamline agendas and possibly contribute to reform of the General Assembly.

Ownership and partnership — the very heart of NEPAD — are principles that my Government has stressed through the process of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. Japan firmly believes that ownership by African countries plays a critical role in their development. Accordingly, Japan will continue to provide support to NEPAD, and we will host the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development next October.

We also welcome the recognition by African countries that conflict prevention, management and resolution; peace enforcement and peacekeeping; post-conflict reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction; and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) are preconditions for development. In that connection, I should like to take this opportunity to discuss the issue of conflict resolution and peace-building.

Despite tremendous efforts on the part of African countries themselves, with cooperation from the international community, they continue to be confronted with problems that threaten peace and stability in their own countries as well as in the region. That is especially true in countries that are emerging from conflict, since, in many cases, the underlying causes of conflict — such as poverty — remain after the conflict itself has been settled. Countries in that situation all too often fall into a vicious cycle of recurring conflict and fail to achieve significant development progress.

In addressing conflict resolution and peace-building in Africa, Japan has repeatedly stressed the importance of taking a comprehensive approach that integrates political, economic, social and humanitarian measures to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development. Needless to say, ensuring cooperation and coordination among various actors is essential to the success of such a comprehensive approach. Such an approach should be followed at all stages, from conflict prevention to post-conflict peace-building. Thanks to the efforts of African countries — as well as to those of African regional and subregional organizations, of the United Nations and of other international partners — progress has been achieved in the peace processes in Angola, in Ethiopia and Eritrea and in Sierra Leone. However, durable peace and sustainable development in a post-conflict situation can be achieved only through measures undertaken in the context of a comprehensive approach.

Being of that view, Japan has responded to conflicts in Africa by extending assistance to encourage the peace process, to promote DDR and to achieve a seamless transition from conflict resolution to post-conflict reconstruction and socio-economic development. We remain committed to such efforts.

In conclusion, I should like to stress our wholehearted commitment to Africa as a partner. Japan will engage actively and continuously in the NEPAD process, and we will support the efforts of African nations.

Mr. Jalang'o (Kenya): At the outset, my delegation associates itself with the statement made this morning by the delegation of Egypt on behalf of the African Group.

In addition, on behalf of the Government of Kenya, I should like to express our condolences to the Government and the people of Indonesia following the horrific terrorist attack on the island of Bali last week. We also express our condolences to the Government and the people of Australia, who were equally affected by the attack.

Let me take this early opportunity to express my delegation's commendations of the able manner in which the President of the General Assembly has continued to steer the deliberations concerning this agenda item, on final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). My delegation would also like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his commitment with regard to the final review of UN-NADAF.

UN-NADAF was an outstanding effort that conscientiously reflected on the issues related to sustainable development of the African continent. It fully recognized the essential elements that would propel Africa to desirable levels of economic development. It is, however, disappointing that, for much of the decade, the development targets were not achieved. Much of that failure has been attributed to the decline in external support, as official development assistance to Africa declined from $28.62 billion in 1990 to $16.38 billion in 2000. In addition, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative has not yielded the desired results. Kenya, therefore, calls for a review of the eligibility criteria to enable more countries to benefit from the Initiative. At the same time, trade opportunities have not delivered the expected benefits as a result of the deteriorating terms of trade and the resultant decline in export earnings.

Despite that bleak scenario, my delegation is confident that much hope still exists for the continent in realizing sustainable development. African Governments have adopted various measures, at both the national and the regional levels, to promote economic development. The economic and political reforms undertaken in the 1990s, for example, have helped to improve the macro-economic situation in most countries, while significant strides have been made in the process of democratization.

The continent has demonstrated its commitments to economic cooperation and integration through regional bodies such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African

Community, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States, which are building blocks of the economic integration of the African continent. The recent launching of the African Union in Durban, South Africa, was clear testimony to that effort. We would like to call upon the international to support us in that endeavour.

My delegation shares the philosophy of the eminent panellists on the evaluation of UN-NADAF that the first and foremost lesson from that decade-long experience has been that conflict and development are mortal enemies. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly, in resolution 55/217, reaffirmed the close linkage between peace, security and sustainable development, and emphasized the need for a comprehensive implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report of April 1998 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871).

Kenya welcomes the efforts of the United Nations aimed at fostering global peace, security and stability through cooperation with regional and subregional grouping arrangements. We welcome the growing optimism concerning the progress made in the negotiations to settle long-standing conflicts in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. Kenya will continue to spearhead efforts to resolve the conflicts in our subregion, and I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Assembly that the peace conference on Somalia began on Tuesday, 15 October, in Eldoret, Kenya, and brought together all the political factions, members of civil society and other stakeholders. We are hopeful that the warring parties in Somalia will finally agree to form a Government of national unity.

At the same time, Kenya welcomes the signing of a truce for the cessation of fighting between the Government of the Sudan and the Southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement, and the resumption of peace talks in the Kenyan town of Machakos. Our determination in supporting those peace efforts is predicated on the clear understanding that the resolution of those conflicts holds the key to Africa's sustainable development and prosperity.

The launching of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by African heads of State or Government in July 2001 was a significant event, as it set out a broad vision of the continent and a strategy for achieving sustainable development. We welcome the support and seek the endorsement of that initiative by the international community, including the United Nations system. NEPAD provides a comprehensive framework for support to Africa, and we welcome the recommendation that the New Partnership be adopted by the United Nations system and the international community as the framework for its future support to Africa. Kenya believes that the success of NEPAD will ultimately depend on the efforts of Africans with the support of our development partners, bearing in mind the principles of ownership and partnership.

Finally, the primary responsibility for the development of Africa remains with African countries themselves, and the international community has a role to play in that respect. The United Nations system, as well as other development partners, including international financial institutions, must ensure that development assistance activities in Africa are carried out in a more coordinated manner in order to make a tangible impact on the recipient countries.

Mr. Pradhan (Bhutan): We believe that Africa must move forward and look ahead towards the future. In that context, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a manifestation of the strong determination of African countries to better the lot of their peoples. That worthy desire has stemmed from the innate wisdom of Africa's leaders. It is an expression of its people's wish to cast aside civil and regional conflicts and bloody power struggles that bring only misery and destruction; and above all, it demonstrates the ultimate supremacy of the people in shaping their destinies.

We warmly congratulate the people of Africa and their leaders on the bold decisions being taken. In their pursuit of the objectives of NEPAD, African countries need and must receive the full and unstinting cooperation of the international community. That is more so because the moral commitment of the developed countries, the Bretton Woods institutions and the rest of international community is in fact already there and has been explicitly given.

As has been reiterated by many speakers in this Assembly, the beginning of the new millennium was crowned by the far-sighted and overarching decisions of our leaders at the Millennium Summit. Thereafter,

implementation of international decisions acquired prominence and was highlighted by the Secretary-General. That was done at the Monterrey, Doha and Johannesburg Conferences, among other forums. The NEPAD initiative is a focused framework in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals for one of the most marginalized areas of the world. It is pertinent to note that out of the 49 least developed countries, 34 are in Africa.

Our experience in international cooperation, especially when it comes to socio-economic development, has raised the question of who decides what is to be done in a country or a region. Again, who are the owners of the process? While discussions and dialogue are essential between donors and recipients, and while expatriate advisers and consultants have their important roles to play, the ownership of development projects and programmes should lie with the Governments and the people that they are expected to benefit. That approach is important if development programmes are to have a lasting impact in recipient countries. That is an integral principle of NEPAD, and we must respect it.

When it comes to the least developed countries, my delegation has consistently pointed out that official development assistance has to continue to play an important role. That is especially so with regard to building transportation and communications infrastructure, as well as basic health and educational services. Loans become a viable option only when they are an input into income-generating programmes and projects that enable repayment, or when the country concerned is in a position to pay them back from other sources of income. If that consideration is ignored, then the result will be indebtedness.

Foreign direct investment is an important element in financing development for the advancement of private enterprise, the acquisition of technology and the expansion of trade, as well as for increasing employment and income levels.

But the definitive problem for developing countries, and especially for the least developed countries, is how to attract foreign direct investment. As is well known, private investment moves to countries where profitability can be maximized. Unfortunately, circumstances in the least developed countries do not always attract private investment, despite their best efforts. Infrastructure and communications facilities, an educated and technically trained manpower and peace and stability are important requirements.

To develop and establish those conditions, least developed countries need official development assistance to supplement domestic resources. For the financing of development, we must move with greater haste and purpose to fulfil the commitments made at Monterrey. The spirit of Monterrey needs to be fired to meet the goals of the Millennium Summit. Financing has to be available to implement decisions of the international community. This is what the New Partnership for Africa's Development now needs. We hope that, this time, the international community will meet the challenge.

Mr. Cheah (Malaysia): My delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's progress report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/57/172). We also welcome his reports on the independent evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (NEPAD) (A/57/156) and on the review and implementation of the programme for Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (A/57/175). The deliberation of all three of those reports today underscores the importance that this body is continuing to attach to the development and well-being of Africa.

We all agree that Africa faces myriad and complex issues, which must be dealt with in a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated manner. Africa's numerous wars have not only resulted in widespread destruction and loss of life, but have also contributed to creating millions of internally displaced persons and over nine million refugees. Malaysia therefore views with trepidation the ongoing military rebellion that has now enveloped Côte d'Ivoire, a country considered by many to be a bastion of stability and prosperity in West Africa. It is our hope that the conflict that began on 19 September will not be prolonged to the detriment of its populace, in particular, and the whole West African region, in general.

We are, however, heartened by recent peacemaking efforts in both the Sudan and Somalia. We hope those efforts will be successful. We applaud Africa's own efforts at establishing the appropriate mechanisms for the prevention, management and

resolution of conflicts at both the regional and subregional levels. Regional and subregional organizations have an important role to play in preventive diplomacy and in the peaceful settlement of disputes, especially in the context of the ongoing conflicts in Africa. In that connection, due recognition must be given to the important roles being played by the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, among others.

We have noted that, in his latest report, the Secretary-General has continued to stress the important linkage between peace and development. In the absence of political stability, which is essential for attracting foreign investment and capital, the countries of Africa will find it difficult to embark on any serious development programmes. Where stability has been restored in conflict areas, the processes of peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building have engendered sustainable economic development and economic growth.

However, the continent still lags behind the target of 6 per cent growth in gross national product per annum, as set by the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Although 15 African countries achieved growth rates of over 5 per cent, that still falls short of the 7 per cent annual growth rate necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty by half by the year 2015.

International cooperation and assistance are imperative if Africa is to recover and set its course on the path towards development. More needs to be done by developed countries in providing financial resources, better market access and reducing trade barriers to African exports. The continent accounts for just 1 per cent of world trade, although it is home to 10 per cent of the world's population and 30 per cent of its natural resources.

No less important is the crippling external debt still faced by many African countries, servicing of which accounts for a third of those countries' export earnings. All that debt will impede public investment in physical infrastructure and human resource development. We welcome the efforts at comprehensive debt relief currently being implemented, including through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC), whereby poor countries with unsustainable debt burdens are provided with coordinated debt relief. It is encouraging to note that 23 African countries are currently receiving relief from HIPC.

African Governments must give due consideration to reducing their defence budgets, in particular as they relate to arms purchases. In that regard, we applaud the effort of ECOWAS to renew the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa. Additional concerted efforts are also needed to encourage more African countries to participate in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. The substantial amounts spent annually on arms purchases could be better utilized for more productive purposes, such as investing in education and health and promoting economic growth, which are essential factors in poverty reduction. At the same time, the importance of ongoing democratization processes, good governance and sustainable development cannot be underestimated as prerequisites for durable peace and the promotion of economic growth. We welcome the initiative of African countries to establish an African Peer Review Mechanism to track the progress made in financial transparency, accountability, protecting the integrity of monetary systems and strengthening banking and financial standards so as to improve governance and the economic management of African countries.

As we have declared in this body, Malaysia views NEPAD as a bold undertaking to halt the marginalization of Africa from the process of globalization and to assist its integration into the world economy. African countries must be the stakeholders in their development programmes, in partnership with international agencies. We believe that NEPAD is a reflection of the commitment of African leaders to build a strong and enduring culture of democracy, respect for human rights and sustained economic growth on the continent. But Africa cannot do it alone. Africa needs concrete support from the international community if it is to meet the Millennium Declaration Goals of sustainable development and poverty reduction.

While the international community, in general, and the Plan of Action for Africa adopted by the Group of Eight industrialized countries in June 2002, in particular, have expressed support for NEPAD, donors'

financial resources and attention could be diverted in the light of the growing possibility of United States military action against Iraq. That possibility and the weakening global economy are factors that could impede the realization of NEPAD.

As for Malaysia, I wish to reiterate that we value our traditional close and friendly ties with Africa. We are especially proud of our long-standing bonds of friendship and cooperation with many African countries, and we look forward to further consolidating that cooperation and solidarity in more concrete ways. Malaysia, with its limited resources, will continue to play its modest role in enhancing cooperation with African countries through its training programmes.

It is in that regard that Malaysia, in the spirit of South-South cooperation, extended the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme in 1981 to cover African countries. To date, more than 4,000 participants, including participants from Africa, have undergone various short- and medium-term training courses in public administration and technical fields in various Malaysian institutions. We will also continue to exchange views and to engage with our African partners in finding ways and means to enhance our cooperation and partnership programmes, including through the Langkawi International Dialogue. In our relationship with Africa, we have made efforts to enhance the level of cooperation through the concept of "smart partnerships" - that is, partnerships between Governments and private sectors with the goal of promoting better and sustainable economic activities to ensure a win-win relationship.

Malaysia is ever mindful of the humanitarian needs of our African friends, and we have assisted them in whatever way we can. In that regard, Malaysia will be contributing $100,000 to alleviate the grave food shortage situation in Southern Africa.

Mr. Bennouna (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I should like to congratulate the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, on his report (A/57/172), which describes specific follow-up measures undertaken with regard to the implementation of the recommendations contained in his very important report of 1998 (A/52/871) on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

The Moroccan delegation welcomes the positive assessment made by the Secretary-General in that report, which highlights new progress achieved in an array of activities, and it is the report's positive aspects that I shall address first.

First, with regard to Angola, we were all pleased to see that brotherly country find peace and stability, after years and decades of conflict, which will enable it to devote itself to economic and social development. That is also the case with the fratricidal conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which has been stabilized thanks to the decision of the Boundary Commission, accepted by both parties, to definitively determine the border. And it is finally the case — although there is still progress to be made — with the conflict that unfortunately is taking place in the countries of the Mano River region, which we hope will move further towards the restoration of confidence and of a civil peace among them.

The history of conflicts shows us that every time the ethnic factor has been used by one or several actors, it can generate conflict, but also that, if it allows for cross-border cooperation, it can guide the countries in question towards stability and lasting cooperation. That is why, in conflicts — whether internal or internationalized — there is an interaction between respect for fundamental human rights and minority rights and the restoration of regional peace and development. We should bear that approach in mind. It has proved useful in many parts of the world, particularly in Europe after the end of the cold war.

The Kingdom of Morocco remains convinced that the development of regional and subregional cooperation is the principal factor in preventing the worsening of rivalry and ethnic conflict and that it is the most effective means of transcending potential or real conflict situations. That clearly applies to Africa first and foremost, because, as everyone knows, Africa has inherited the aftermath of colonialism, most often with artificial borders that were drawn arbitrarily. That is why my delegation shares the view of the Secretary-General that subregional and regional cooperation and economic integration in Africa can strengthen confidence among neighbouring countries and, as a result, should allow us to establish solid bases for durable peace and sustainable development.

The Kingdom of Morocco, anxious to respect and to enhance good-neighbourly relations, is resolved to continue to commit itself to any action that promotes the well-being of the peoples of the Maghreb region.

We hope that their stability and prosperity will benefit the entire African continent, because we are the crossroads of Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. The progress achieved thus far towards the restoration of peace in certain regions of Africa — even if its effects have not yet been felt — demonstrates the effectiveness of the approach taken by the United Nations. The Secretary-General's appointment of special mediators and the creation of special Commissions charged with examining the sources of disputes are measures that deserve support.

Similarly, the past year has seen the success of two African initiatives that we strongly supported in due course: the establishment of a Regional Office for West Africa, which is now up and running; and the Economic and Social Council's adoption of a resolution providing for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Advisory Group for African countries emerging from conflict. Again, we supported that initiative in due course. The establishment of the Regional Office, as I said, will certainly enable us to foster peace in the Mano River region and in West Africa. In addition, the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups — the first of which was established for Guinea-Bissau — will help the countries concerned to heal their wounds and to emerge from the horrors of the conflicts that they have endured.

We have heard several times here that the countries that have experienced so much suffering and are so backward cannot make progress themselves; they need substantial international assistance, and that is the Organization's role — to give them that assistance. Such assistance consists of peace-building, of course, but also of addressing the return of refugees and displaced persons.

The Kingdom of Morocco will continue its solidarity with all of its African brothers, and it will spare no effort to advance the cause of peace on the African continent, and particularly in a region that is simply the extension of Morocco — West Africa — where we hope to be as active as possible for the restoration of lasting peace. We hope in particular that, by the end of October or the beginning of November, a second summit of the Mano river countries will be held at Rabat under the auspices of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

Ms. Løj (Denmark): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — and the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as well as the European Free Trade Association countries of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway, align themselves with this statement.

Africa has been given high priority on the agenda of this year's General Assembly session, and rightly so. The birth of the African Union (AU), the consolidation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the recent positive prospects of ending some of Africa's protracted conflicts — in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Sierra Leone and the Sudan — are notable political developments that could augur well for the future of the African continent and its peoples.

Here at the United Nations, we have already been able to engage in substantive discussions of the challenges and opportunities facing Africa. The high-level plenary meeting on 16 September on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the ensuing review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) clearly underlined the magnitude of the development challenges facing Africa. They also reaffirmed the need for a concerted effort by the international community to lend its full support to assisting African efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

Let me begin by commenting briefly on the recently concluded review of UN-NADAF. The European Union is pleased with the outcome of the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. We have drawn lessons from UN-NADAF that will be applied to the implementation of NEPAD and the organization of future support by the United Nations system for NEPAD. First of all, we firmly established NEPAD as the future framework around which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development. Secondly, we called upon the United Nations system to ensure a coherent response in support of the implementation of NEPAD at country level. Finally, we agreed to include a single comprehensive item on the development of Africa on the annual agenda of the General Assembly.

I would now like to turn to the progress report of the Secretary-General (A/57/172) on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The European Union is committed to working with African partners in strengthening regional and local capacities for conflict prevention, management and resolution. Currently, the EU is looking at ways to further reinforce and broaden support for the development of African capacity in the area of conflict prevention and resolution. And the EU is committed to help strengthen and consolidate United Nations peace support operations and assist in post-conflict reconstruction efforts. That cooperation is rooted in the fundamental principle of ownership, meaning that the primary responsibility lies with Africa itself. In this regard, we welcome the peace and security initiative of NEPAD, including the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which is based on this principle and which will reshape the framework for strengthening the African security architecture. In this respect, we also acknowledge the vital role to be played by the African subregional organizations in contributing to the resolution of conflicts. They are important building blocks for African political and economic integration, and they have the potential to contribute to securing peace and prosperity in Africa.

The report rightly points to the ways in which the proliferation of arms, small arms and light weapons in particular, is fuelling conflict. The European Union is actively engaged in trying to prevent the excessive accumulation of arms in Africa. But for any effort to be sustainable, there clearly is a need to develop — with the African Union and, in particular, with the subregional organizations — far more effective mechanisms for arms control.

The fight for control over natural resources is yet another very apparent source of conflict in Africa. In that regard, the European Union encourages the continuation of the Kimberley Process, which plays an important role in the prevention of conflicts in Africa.

Finally, we commend the United Nations for having decided to scale up its response to situations of conflict and its peace-building in Africa. We consider the United Nations to be a very important global actor in that respect. The establishment of the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa and the recent establishment of an Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African countries emerging from conflict may provide opportunities to enhance coordination between those two Councils. We need to recognize and act upon integrated and complementary approaches to conflict resolution, peace-building and development in Africa, as called for by the Secretary-General.

Mr. Lancry (Israel): The past year has been seminal in many ways for the African continent and for its relations with the international community. Not only have a number of major conflicts come that much closer to resolution, but the continent itself has taken dramatic steps to assert control over its own destiny for the benefit of its 700 million inhabitants.

In the realm of conflict resolution, this year has seen great strides made in restoring peace and security in Angola, Sierra Leone and on the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Further, a number of other positive developments, specifically in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Mano river basin and in the Sudan, will undoubtedly contribute even more to the atmosphere of peace and stability when they reach fruition.

Even more important in Israel's eyes are the political developments at the regional level, which will serve to cement the progress made in the fields of conflict resolution and conflict prevention. Indeed, it has often been said that development - and especially sustainable development - is the best insurance against conflict, and that peace and security are the best backdrop against which to pursue active development policies. The most obvious of those are, without a doubt, the birth of the African Union on the one hand, and the launch of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) on the other hand.

Israel cannot agree more with the approach, outlined in the progress report of the Secretary-General, of moving from a culture of reaction to conflict to one of prevention. That change embodies the highest ideals of this Organization, as enshrined in the Charter. Prevention drastically reduces the economic and social costs of conflict and, most important of all, the human costs. That is the ideal upon which this Organization was founded — to save mankind from the scourge of war — and Israel shares the belief that there is no better way to protect our

children from the wars of tomorrow than by preventing conflicts today.

Similarly, the efforts made in building durable peace and promoting sustainable development are noteworthy. We find it meaningful that the World Summit on Sustainable Development took place on the African continent, thus not only underscoring Africa's commitment to the principles of sustainable development, but also highlighting the world's recognition of Africa as an appropriate venue for discussions on that crucial matter.

Israel has always considered its relations with Africa to be of highest priority. Since the late 1950s, Israel has sought to build development partnerships with the newly independent States of sub-Saharan Africa. While still a developing nation itself, Israel was determined to share some of the hard-learned lessons of nation-building with others. Grateful for the guidance we had received in our earliest days, we felt that the knowledge and the experience gained were not solely ours, but, rather, were a trust held by Israel to be passed along, as needed.

Thus was born Israel's Centre for International Cooperation (MASHAV), one of the first examples of cooperation between developing nations themselves. Now, almost 50 years later, that cooperation has become a tradition and a commitment rather than a mere experiment.

As a result of those beginnings, MASHAV's activities were always based on the premise that we cannot presume to instruct others on subjects of development; we can only build capacity, especially human capacity, to enable developing countries to apply their understanding to their challenges in a local context. There can be no one right answer for all given situations in every country, be it the empowerment of women, coping with natural disaster or the improvement of food security. The best that can be done is to try to share an approach to problem solving that can then be applied in one or a number of specific contexts. That is the MASHAV philosophy, one that has been working for close to half a century.

It is for precisely those reasons that Israel greets the initiative embodied by NEPAD. The NEPAD approach of cooperation at the regional level to maximize the optimal and efficient distribution of limited resources is laudable and, in our opinion, is a great step forward. Furthermore, the expansion of the development process to include stakeholders formerly overlooked or marginalized is paramount.

Israel stands ready to take up the challenge presented by Africa in the form of NEPAD; indeed, if that will lead to more effective exploitation of our cooperative efforts, so much the better. We therefore look forward to the fruitful continuation of our longstanding partnership.

Israel would like to thank the Secretary-General for the effort invested in the reports, while at the same time congratulating the leaders of Africa on the important steps of self-empowerment taken in the past year. In the Middle East, we consider optimism to be a survival skill; however, I cannot but believe that for all the challenges posed — be they man-made or natural — there is indeed hope if we continue on the path of mutual respect, mutual support and mutual achievement. In this interdependent global village, there can be no artificial distinctions, and so we say: Africa's future is our future; its successes, as well as its failures, are the successes and failures of the entire international community.

Mr. Mra (Myanmar): My delegation would first of all like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. Despite their great potential and human resources, African countries continue to face many of the world's greatest challenges. Development efforts have lagged behind in Africa more than they have in any other region in the world.

Conflict, disease, debt, poverty and underdevelopment remain the characteristics of today's Africa. However, in this age of globalization and interdependence, Africa should have its fair share of the benefits of globalization. My delegation is of the view that the global community should pay serious attention to Africa and should nurture stronger partnership with the region.

International focus on Africa is not a new phenomenon. One of the significant initiatives introduced by the United Nations was the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991. It was a package of mutual commitments by African countries and the international community to accelerate the transformation, integration and

diversification of African economies, to reduce their vulnerability to external shocks and to enhance their self-reliance. My delegation would like to express its deep appreciation for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of UN-NADAF and for the report submitted by the Secretary-General on that matter, as well as for the recommendations and proposals for future engagement with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Nonetheless, the result of the final review, according to the Ad Hoc Committee, is far from satisfactory and is less encouraging.

Peace and stability are prerequisites for sustainable development in every region of the world. However, Africa's recent history has not been totally free of civil strife and conflicts. Nevertheless, we are heartened to learn that progress has been made towards restoring peace and stability in some regions of Africa. In that regard, my delegation would like to commend the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations which have contributed to that progress.

We are encouraged by the initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), put forward by African leaders at their summit meeting in July 2001. It is a home-grown initiative that will guarantee the future development of Africa. Peace, security, democracy and good governance, improved economic and corporate governance and regional cooperation and integration, affirmed by NEPAD, will surely pave the way for future development in Africa. The reorganization of the Organization of African Unity as the African Union also provides a new dynamism for cooperation among African nations, emphasizing economic integration as a means to achieve greater political unity among African countries. In this respect, my delegation also welcomes the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (resolution 57/2), adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 16 September 2002.

Africa has many daunting challenges to overcome in order to achieve sustainable development. This has to be done through a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. The major challenges for Africa are the reduction of poverty and hunger and the treatment of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Reducing by half the number of Africans living in poverty by the year 2015, as stipulated by the Millennium Development Goals, requires an average annual rate of economic growth of at least 7 per cent in Africa. However, the performance of African countries during the last decade was far below that target, with an average of only approximately 3 per cent. Africa must spur its economic growth to alleviate poverty and to overcome hunger, which requires considerable resources. However, domestic saving is very low in Africa, and most of the resource requirements rely on external sources such as borrowing, official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment. The recent G-8 meeting in Kananaskis created the hope that the developed countries would provide more ODA to Africa to implement the NEPAD initiative. While it should be welcomed that the industrialized countries have pledged to increase their ODA to $12 billion by the year 2006, half of which will be channelled to Africa, the industrialized countries should also strive to increase their ODA to the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of Gross Domestic Product. Africa, for its part, should make every effort to attract more foreign direct investment by creating a climate conducive to such investments.

The issue of debt relief for Africa deserves serious consideration in order to enable the continent to free up resources for economic development and social spending. We welcome the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative of the World Bank for the reduction of African debt. We are also encouraged by the fact that there will be $19 billion in debt reduction for 22 African countries demonstrating sound economic policies and good governance. We call for faster and deeper debt relief to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, with fewer imposed conditions. My delegation agrees with the assertion that debt relief alone, no matter how generous, cannot guarantee long-term debt sustainability. A durable solution must be based on sound policies, good governance, prudent new borrowing and sound debt management by HIPC, as well as responsible financing by creditors.

One of the greatest chalienges confronting Africa today is the threat of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Seventy per cent of the cases of HIV infection occur in Africa, and the disease has taken a toll of 2.2 million lives there in 2001 alone. This has not only seriously affected labour productivity and life expectancy but also had enormous economic and social consequences. My delegation is heartened to know that all key

organizations of the United Nations system are now mainstreaming the issue of HIV/AIDS into their projects and programmes in Africa and that the World Bank has recently allocated $1 billion for multi-country HIV/AIDS programmes for Africa, especially for sub-Saharan Africa. The Secretary-General's creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS is also a laudable initiative. Raising the Fund to the target level of $7 billion to $10 billion per year would greatly help combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially in the sub-Saharan region.

The future direction of development in Africa has been clearly outlined in NEPAD, which is an initiative led, owned and managed by Africans. Although the primary responsibility for the implementation of NEPAD lies with the African countries concerned, its success depends on the fostering of a concerted and coherent response to the initiative by the global community, including international and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector. In conclusion, my delegation would like to express its full support for Africa's effort to establish greater peace and stability and to bring about sustainable growth and development through their own initiative.

Ms. Pulido Santana (Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The joint consideration of these two items enables us to evaluate from a global perspective the results of the international community's assistance to Africa so that the continent can achieve sustainable socio-economic growth and development and alleviate the impact that internal and international conflicts have had on countries in trying to achieve those goals.

The priority goals of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) were to promote the comprehensive transformation, diversification and accelerated growth of African economies in order to strengthen them and to integrate them into the world economy, as well as to promote human development and to increase productive employment. The programme reflected the commitments and responsibilities of both Africa and the international community, based on the recognition that the development of Africa is the fundamental responsibility of Africans themselves.

In order to achieve those objectives, the international community committed itself to providing total and tangible support during the implementation decade and noted that the continent's gross domestic product required an annual growth rate of at least 6 per cent to attain sustainable economic growth.

Nevertheless, as is pointed out in the report on the independent evaluation of the programme, during a large part of the decade the growth rate was only 3 per cent — in other words, far lower than the rate needed to achieve its objective of poverty alleviation.

This insufficient growth can be explained by the failure to materialize of the promised international assistance; increased dependency on basic commodities; the low level of trade between African countries; declining participation of exports in global trade; inability to take advantage of market-access concessions in any significant way; and a growing dependency on assistance and on debt financing as a result of the steady drop in export income.

Despite these hard facts, Africa reaffirmed its confidence in the international community. Last September the General Assembly held a plenary high-level session to consider how the United Nations system could assist the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In order for NEPAD to reach its objectives and to achieve better results than did prior initiatives, it needs the support and backup of the international community as a whole — not just through words or mere expressions of solidarity, but rather by entering into a partnership with Africa in order that it might realize its development objectives.

African leaders designed NEPAD on the basis of a common vision and of the very sound and shared conviction that it is their urgent duty to eradicate poverty and lead their countries, both individually and collectively, towards sustainable growth and development and to participate actively in the global economy and in the global political decision-making process. This vision of a strong and united Africa acknowledges the need to build a partnership between Governments and all segments of civil society, including women, young people and the private sector, with a view to promoting solidarity and cohesion.

This reflects the determination of Africans to free themselves and the continent from socio-economic underdevelopment and exclusion in the context of globalization. This is to be achieved through democracy, good governance and respect for human rights, with peace, security and stability seen as prerequisites for achieving its development and integration in the global economy.

The President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the International Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey last March, proposed the creation of an international humanitarian fund. Recently, during the celebration of World Food Day, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, he reiterated the need for such a fund, which would be financed by 10 per cent of the external debt of the developing world; 10 percent of military expenditures; a percentage of the resources confiscated from drug traffickers and international organized crime; and by resources stemming from a tax on international speculative capital movements. The resources provided by such a fund could save many human lives and help many people in Africa emerge from poverty.

From this rostrum, and on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, we reiterate the need to create such an international humanitarian fund. Such an instrument would contribute to putting an end to the causes of conflict as well as to promoting durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and in the other regions of the world that are in such need of it.

Mr. Hassan (Pakistan): It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this important discussion under the stewardship of President Jan Kavan.

Let me thank the Secretary-General for his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as his report on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and that on the implementation of the Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

Africa is a vast and varied continent. The sources of conflict in Africa reflect this diversity and complexity. The causes range from historical legacies and internal power struggles to economic motives. Similarly, Africa remains among the poorest regions in the world. Its poverty is further exacerbated by the unsustainable levels of its external debt burden, the deteriorating terms of trade, declining official development assistance, falling commodity prices, increasing protectionism in developed countries, and the negative effects of structural adjustment programmes.

Many initiatives have been taken by the United Nations to address the issues of peace and security as well as the various dimensions of economic and social development in Africa. Some success has been achieved, but the overall situation of the African continent has not improved over the last two decades. Poverty, disease, famine, lack of human- resource development, the external debt burden, and conflict and strife remain the major obstacles to the development of Africa.

Africa faces enormous challenges. Africa alone — in fact, no region or nation alone— can face such challenges. The international community must therefore lend its full support to regional and national efforts to achieve the twin goals of peace and development in the African region. Africa needs to be supported in the process of addressing the root causes of conflicts. This requires a concerted international effort at two levels. In the first instance, there is a need to focus on the underlying political and security aspects of the instability prevailing in that continent. In parallel, the economic and social problems afflicting parts of Africa need to be tackled through a comprehensive assistance programme with adequate resources.

Conflict prevention is important, but is not a sufficient condition for the establishment of durable peace. Mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, should be activated to address the root causes of conflicts, including the resolution of festering disputes.

Development assistance to Africa is a prerequisite for the success of any development effort there. But assistance loses its value if it is motivated by conditionalities or political returns. Neither peace nor development should be held to ransom. Without enhanced official development assistance, increased investment, a durable solution to the external debt burden, market access for products and services from the African region and integration of the African countries into the global economy, efforts to achieve the goals of durable peace and sustainable development are not likely to make any headway. In order to achieve international development goals in Africa, the economic and social development indicators of African countries have to be improved.

Cognizant of their own responsibilities, the African countries have developed an integrated and

comprehensive framework for Africa' s development. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) offers hope. It sets out a broad vision of Africa' s future, outlines a strategy for achieving that vision and spells out a Programme of Action focused on a number of key priority areas.

Many elements of NEPAD, such as those relating to peace and security, poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, governance and infrastructure development, directly correspond to the elements of ongoing United Nations programmes in African countries. We are glad that the Members of the United Nations have pledged their full support to NEPAD. We hope that the United Nations will also play a tangible role in support of NEPAD.

My delegation would like to emphasize that the international community's commitment to NEPAD and the promotion of peace and prosperity in Africa will be judged by its success in translating rhetoric into reality. We should not be found wanting in generating the necessary political will to turn words into deeds.

In the high-level debate held on 16 September, Pakistan's Minister for Foreign Affairs pledged our full support to NEPAD. My delegation would like to reiterate our support, not only to NEPAD, but also to other similar initiatives aimed at restoring peace and development in Africa. We believe, however, that the international community needs to complement those African initiatives, first of all by ensuring enhanced and guaranteed access by African countries to the markets of developed countries.

Secondly, there should be accelerated and increased debt relief to the poor African countries, including outright debt cancellation. The conversion of all remaining official debt of the poorest African countries into grants needs to be given serious consideration. Thirdly, Africa's agricultural performance and food security should be improved. Africa should be provided with the requisite technologies and resources to ensure its development. Fourthly, investment should be increased in Africa's human resources. Finally, financial resources should be effectively mobilized. Africa will require an additional $20 billion to $30 billion a year to effectively reduce the problem of poverty. The goals of NEPAD cannot be achieved unless we ensure sufficient resource flows to Africa.

For its part, Pakistan has consistently supported the political and economic aspirations of Africa. We are proud of our participation in several United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. Our military and civilian personnel have been part of United Nations operations in Somalia, Namibia, Liberia, Western Sahara and, recently, Sierra Leone. Pakistan will continue to lend moral and material support to African countries. Our technical assistance programme for Africa is an ongoing process of training young professionals in diverse fields.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on items 33 and 41.

The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 33 and 41.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

United Nations A/57/PV.35

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

35th plenary meeting
Monday, 21 October 2002, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kavan ..... (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 15 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(c) Election of five members of the International Court of Justice

Memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/57/305)

List of candidates (A/57/306)

Curricula vitae (A/57/307)

The President: This morning, the General Assembly will proceed to the election of five members of the International Court of Justice for a nine-year term commencing on 6 February 2003. The terms of office of the following judges expire on 5 February 2003: Mr. Shi Jiuyong (China), Mr. Shigeru Oda (Japan), Mr. Géza Herczegh (Hungary), Mr. Carl-August Fleischhauer (Germany) and Mr. Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone).

In connection with the election, I should like to bring the following matters to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

I should like to confirm that, at this time, the Security Council, independently of the General Assembly, is also proceeding to elect five members of the Court. This procedure is in accordance with Article 8 of the Statute of the Court, which provides that

> "The General Assembly and the Security Council shall proceed independently of one another to elect the members of the Court".

Accordingly, the results of the voting in the General Assembly will not be communicated to the Security Council until five candidates have obtained the required majority in the Assembly.

I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the documents relating to the election. The list of candidates who have been nominated by national groups is to be found in document A/57/306. The curricula vitae of the candidates are to be found in document A/57/307. The Assembly also has before it document A/57/305, containing a memorandum by the Secretary-General on the present composition of the Court and on the procedure to be followed in the Assembly and in the Security Council with regard to the election.

In accordance with article 10, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court, those candidates who obtain an absolute majority of votes both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council shall be considered as elected.

The consistent practice of the United Nations has been to interpret the words "absolute majority" as meaning a majority of all electors whether or not they vote or are allowed to vote. The electors in the General Assembly are all 191 Member States. Accordingly, for

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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the present election, 96 votes constitute an absolute majority in the General Assembly.

If in the first ballot fewer than five candidates obtain an absolute majority, it will be necessary to proceed to further ballots until five candidates have obtained that majority. Pursuant to the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 915th meeting, held on 16 November 1960, those ballots shall be unrestricted.

I should like to remind representatives that, pursuant to rule 88 of the Assembly's rules of procedure,

> "After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting".

Therefore, any announcements, such as those concerning withdrawals of candidatures, should be made prior to the commencement of the voting process, that is to say before the announcement of the beginning of the voting process.

I should like to bring another matter to the attention of the General Assembly. Cases have arisen in the Security Council in which more than the required number of candidates have obtained an absolute majority on the same ballet. The same also occurred in the General Assembly at the 45th plenary meeting of the fifty-fourth session, on 3 November 1999. The practice followed by the Security Council has been to hold a new vote on all the candidates, and the President of the Council made no notification to the President of the General Assembly until only the required number of candidates, and no more, had obtained the absolute majority in the Security Council.

Similarly, at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly more than the required number of candidates obtained an absolute majority on the same ballot. The General Assembly decided to hold a new ballot on all the candidates, and the President of the General Assembly made no notification to the President of the Security Council until only the required number of candidates, and no more, had obtained an absolute majority.

May I take it that the Assembly agrees to the procedures I have just outlined?

It was so decided.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Muchetwa (Zimbabwe): I would like to inform the General Assembly that Mr. Walter J. Kamba and Mr. Arthur J. Manase have withdrawn from the race.

The President: Members have heard the statement by the representative of Zimbabwe that Mr. Walter J. Kamba and Mr. Arthur J. Manase no longer wish to be considered as candidates. Accordingly, the names of Mr. Walter J. Kamba and Mr. Arthur J. Manase have been deleted from the ballot papers that will be distributed.

I should like to seek the usual cooperation of representatives during the conduct of the election. Please be reminded that during the voting process all campaigning should cease in the General Assembly Hall. This means in particular that once the election has begun no more campaign material can be distributed inside the Hall. All representatives are also requested to remain at their seats so that the voting process can proceed in an orderly manner. I thank representatives in advance for their cooperation.

We shall now begin the voting process. Ballot papers will now be distributed.

Representatives are requested to use only the ballot papers now being distributed. Only those candidates whose names appear on the ballot papers are eligible. Representatives will indicate the five candidates for whom they wish to vote by placing crosses to the left of their names on the ballot papers. Ballot papers on which more than five names are marked will be considered invalid. Votes may be cast only for those whose names appear on the ballot papers.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Baaziz (Algeria), Ms. Davtyan (Armenia), Mr. Psiachas (Greece), Mr. Francis (Jamaica), Mr. Al-Ojaili (Oman) and Ms. Matti (Switzerland) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.30 a.m. and resumed at 11.35 a.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	183
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	183
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	183
Required absolute majority:	96
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Hisashi Owada (Japan)	169
Mr. Shi Jiuyong (China)	167
Mr. Peter Tomka (Slovakia)	149
Mr. Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)	134
Mr. Bruno Simma (Germany)	123
Mr. Hans Corell (Sweden)	94
Mr. John Dugard (South Africa)	43
Mr. Vojin Dimitrijević (Yugoslavia)	25

The following five candidates have obtained an absolute majority in the General Assembly: Mr. Abdul G. Koroma, Mr. Hisashi Owada, Mr. Shi Jiuyong, Mr. Bruno Simma and Mr. Peter Tomka.

I have communicated the result of the voting to the President of the Security Council.

I have received a letter from the President of the Security Council. I call on the representative of the Secretariat to read out that letter.

Mr. Perfiliev (Director, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division) (*spoke in French*):

"I have the honour to inform you that at the 4629th meeting of the Security Council, held on 21 October 2002, for the purpose of electing five members of the International Court of Justice for a term of office beginning on 6 February 2003, Mr. Abdul Koroma, Mr. Hisashi Owada, Mr. Shi Jiuyong, Mr. Bruno Simma and Mr. Peter Tomka obtained an absolute majority of votes."

The President: As a result of the independent voting in the Security Council and in the General Assembly, the following five candidates have obtained an absolute majority in both organs: Mr. Abdul G. Koroma, Mr. Hisashi Owada, Mr. Shi Jiuyong, Mr. Bruno Simma and Mr. Peter Tomka. They are therefore duly elected members of the International Court of Justice to serve for a nine-year term commencing on 6 February 2003. I take this opportunity to extend to them the Assembly's congratulations on their election and to thank the tellers for their assistance.

We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 15.

Programme of work

The President: I should like to inform members that document A/INF/57/3/Rev.1, containing a revised programme of work and schedule of plenary meetings for the main part of the fifty-seventh session, was issued this morning. I should also like to remind members that the lists of speakers for items listed in document A/INF/57/3/Rev.1 are open.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.